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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT

1 May 1997-22 April 1998

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1998

SUPPLEMENT No. 20

UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
ACHR	Asian Coalition for Housing Rights
ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
ACU	Asian Clearing Union
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ALTID	Asian land transport infrastructure development
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APDC	Asian and Pacific Development Centre
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APT	Asia-Pacific Telecommunity
ARC	Asian Reinsurance Corporation
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ASPAT	Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair
BIMST-EC	Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation
CCOP	Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia
CGPRT Centre	Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific
CITYNET	Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements
ECDC	economic cooperation among developing countries
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
EDI	electronic data interchange
EDIFACT	Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport
ESCAP/POC	ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre
EU	European Union
FADINAP	Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GIS	geographic information systems
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HRD	human resources development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IFA	International Fertilizer Industry Association
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOMAC	Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation

ABBREVIATIONS *(continued)*

IRCA	International Railway Congress Association
IRU	International Road Transport Union
ITC	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IULA	International Union of Local Authorities
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MRC	Mekong River Commission
NGOs	non-governmental organizations
ODA	official development assistance
OSShD	Organization of Railways Cooperation
PATA	Pacific Asia Travel Association
POPIN	Population Information Network
RICAP	Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific
RNAM	Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SNA	System of National Accounts
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SPC	Pacific Community
SPECA	Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
TCSP	Tourism Council of the South Pacific
TISNET	Regional Trade Information Network
TRISHNET	Network of Training, Research and Information Institutes on Human Settlements
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WASME	World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises
WHO	World Health Organization
WINAP	Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Introduction

1. The annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which covers the period 1 May 1997 to 22 April 1998, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at the 10th meeting of its fifty-fourth session on 22 April 1998.

Chapter I

ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Issues calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

54/1. Strengthening regional support for persons with disabilities into the twenty-first century

B. Resolutions brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

54/2. Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region

54/3. Bangkok Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Industrial and Technological Development in the Asian and Pacific Region and the Regional Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development

54/4. Mobilization of human and financial resources for further implementation of actions to achieve the population and development goals of the ESCAP region

54/5. International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages

54/6. Strengthening the role of the family in social development

Chapter II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FIFTY-THIRD SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

2. During the period under review, the following subsidiary bodies held meetings: Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, Committee on Transport and Communications, and Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries. The Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development and the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology were convened. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of the meetings are given in annex III to the present report. The reports of those bodies to the Commission reflect the discussions held, the agreements reached and the decisions taken by them.

B. Other activities

3. Lists of publications issued, meetings held and advisory services provided in the calendar year 1997, under the programme of work, 1996-1997 of the Commission, are given in annex V to the present report. To the extent possible, the TCDC modality was applied in those activities, as reported in documents E/ESCAP/1099 and E/ESCAP/1110 and Corr.1 and 2.

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

4. The secretariat maintained close and regular liaison with United Nations Headquarters and cooperated with the departments concerned, as well as with the secretariats of the other regional commissions, on projects of common interest.

Chapter III

FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

5. The fifty-fourth session of the Commission was held at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, from 16 to 22 April 1998.

6. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members:

Armenia
Australia
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Brunei Darussalam
China
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Fiji
France
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kiribati
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Maldives
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Samoa
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Tonga
Turkey
Tuvalu
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Viet Nam
Guam
Hong Kong, China,
Macau
New Caledonia

7. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Austria, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Romania, South Africa and Sweden attended. A representative of Switzerland attended under Economic and Social Council resolution 860 (XXXII). Representatives of the Holy See attended under Council decision 244 (LXIII).

8. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, United Nations Population Fund, World Food Programme and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

9. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Universal Postal Union, International Telecommunication Union and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

10. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian Clearing Union, Asian Development Bank, Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Asian Productivity Organization, Asian-Pacific Postal Union, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Asian Reinsurance Corporation, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, Colombo Plan Secretariat, Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, European Commission, Forum Secretariat, International Organization for Migration, International Pepper Community, Mekong River Commission, Typhoon Committee and WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones.

11. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations in general consultative status: International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council of Women, International Council on Social Welfare, International Organization for Standardization, World Conference on Religion and Peace, Women's Federation for World Peace, World Veterans Federation; and from the following organizations in special consultative status: Baha'í International Community, Disabled People's International, International Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse, Pan-Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association and World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises; and from the following organization on the roster: International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations.

12. Representatives of the Federation of ASEAN Shippers' Councils, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements also attended the session.

13. The list of participants is given in document ESCAP(LIV)/INF.1/Rev.2.

14. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected HE Mr Surin Pitsuwan (Thailand) Chairperson.

15. Following its past practice, the Commission decided to elect the following heads of delegations Vice-Chairpersons: HE Mr Sergey Manassarian (Armenia), HE Mr S.A.M.S. Kibria (Bangladesh), HE Pehin Dato Ahmad Wally Skinner (Brunei Darussalam), HE Mr Yang Jiechi (China), HE Mr Berenado Vunibobo (Fiji), HE Mr Ramakrishna Hegde (India), HE Mr Ali Alatas (Indonesia), HE Mr Mohammad Ali Najafi (Islamic Republic of Iran), HE Mr Masahiko Koumura (Japan), Hon. Beniamina Tinga (Kiribati), HE Mr Soubanh Srithirath (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Hon. Datuk Chong Kah Kiat (Malaysia), HE Mr O. Ochirjav (Mongolia), HE Mr Raghab Dhoj Pant (Nepal), HE Mr Hafiz A. Pasha (Pakistan), Hon. Roy Yaki (Papua New Guinea), Hon. Lina B. Laigo (Philippines), HE Mr Sun Joun-yung (Republic of Korea), HE Mr I.S. Besedin (Russian Federation), HE Mr Ow Chin Hock (Singapore), Hon. S.B. Dissanayake (Sri Lanka), HE M.R. Sukhumbhand Paribatra (Thailand) and HE Mr Nguyen Dy Nien (Viet Nam).

16. The Senior Officials' Segment of the session met in three Committees of the Whole to consider agenda items 1-3 and 5-11. Committee of the Whole I elected Mr Choi Byung-hyo (Republic of Korea) Chairperson and Mr Lu Yongshou (China) and Mr Michael Regan (United Kingdom) Vice-Chairpersons. Committee of the Whole II elected Mr Robert Bosscher (Netherlands) Chairperson and HE Mr Isoa Gavidi (Fiji) and Mr Khush Narayan Shrestha (Nepal) Vice-Chairpersons. Committee of the Whole III elected Ms Noumea Simi (Samoa) Chairperson and Ms Nguyen Thi Hoi (Viet Nam) and Mr Herijanto Soeprapto (Indonesia) Vice-Chairpersons.

17. The Commission also constituted a Working Group on Draft Resolutions, under the chairmanship of HE Mrs Sarala Manouri Fernando (Sri Lanka), to consider draft resolutions presented during the session. Mr Paul Tighe (Australia) and Mr Shaharuddin bin Md. Som (Malaysia) were elected Vice-Chairpersons of the Working Group.

18. In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure, the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons, constituting the Credentials Committee, examined the credentials of all the representatives and found them to be in order.

B. Agenda

19. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda (E/ESCAP/L.136/Rev.1, E/ESCAP/L.137 and Corr.1 and 2).
4. Policy issues for the ESCAP region (E/ESCAP/1081, E/ESCAP/1082):
    (a) Implications of recent economic and social developments;
    (b) Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: prospects for social development.
5. ESCAP reform:
    (a) Follow-up to Commission resolution 53/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1083);
    (b) The role of ESCAP in the promotion of economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific: draft ESCAP position paper for review by the Economic and Social Council (E/ESCAP/1084).
6. Emerging issues and developments at the regional level:
    (a) Regional economic cooperation (E/ESCAP/1085-E/ESCAP/1091);
    (b) Environment and natural resources development (E/ESCAP/1092-E/ESCAP/1094);
    (c) Socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas (E/ESCAP/1095-E/ESCAP/1098 and Corr.1);
    (d) Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development (E/ESCAP/1100, E/ESCAP/1101);
    (e) Statistics (E/ESCAP/1102, E/ESCAP/1103 and Corr.1);
    (f) Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries (E/ESCAP/1104).
7. Programme planning:
    (a) Revision of the medium-term plan, 1998-2001 (E/ESCAP/1105 and Corr.1);
    (b) Implementation of the programme of work, 1996-1997 (E/ESCAP/1106 and Corr.1);

(c) Revision of the programme of work, 1998-1999 (E/ESCAP/1107 and Corr.1);

(d) Calendar of meetings, April 1998-March 1999 (E/ESCAP/1109).

8. Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions (E/ESCAP/1099, E/ESCAP/1110 and Corr.1 and 2).

9. Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies (E/ESCAP/1111-E/ESCAP/1115).

10. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1116 and E/ESCAP/1116/Add.1).

11. Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1108).

12. Other matters.

13. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

C. Account of proceedings

20. The session was declared open by the Chairperson of the fifty-third session, HE Mr S.A.M.S. Kibria (Bangladesh). HE Mr Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered the inaugural address. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and delivered an address.

Inaugural address by the Prime Minister of Thailand

21. The Prime Minister of Thailand, speaking on behalf of the Government and people of Thailand, extended a warm welcome to all those attending the session.

22. The Prime Minister noted that five years earlier, when he had delivered the inaugural address at the forty-ninth session of the Commission, the prospects for Asia had been bright. Political tensions in most cases had been resolved or had eased considerably. The region's economies had been racing towards what was to be an Asia-Pacific century, and many had been optimistic that economic globalization would usher in a new era of peace and prosperity, one in which both developed and developing countries would proceed together as equal partners. Instead, uncertainty still loomed large on the international landscape. When calamity had struck in the form of a regionwide financial crisis, confidence and optimism had generally given way to self-doubt and soul-searching.

23. The financial crisis in many parts of Asia had highlighted the fact that developing countries, despite their impressive growth over the preceding several decades, remained less prepared and equipped than developed countries to deal with all the challenges of globalization. Given the vagaries of the current international financial system, economic structures and national development strategies had been found wanting.

24. The economic and financial problems confronting the region, however, served only as a prelude to a host of other problems, which included problems of a more human and social nature, ranging from rising unemployment to increasing pressures upon society as a whole, in education, health care and other social services. The theme topic of the Commission for the current session, "Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: prospects for social development", could not have been more timely.

25. Given recent developments in the global economy, it was essential to consider how to improve national development strategies, with a view to achieving not only the long-term sustainable development of the region's economies but also the continued social development and welfare of societies. To that end, there was a need to make development strategies more balanced and more responsive to the needs of the people.

26. Thailand had adopted a holistic and people-centred approach to development, upon which the Eighth National Economic and Social Development Plan was based. In his address to the World Summit for Social Development three years earlier, the Prime Minister had stated: "The welfare of the people must be the centre of our development strategy". That was true then and was even more relevant now. At the same time, there was a back-to-basics movement in Thai society. The crisis had served as a reminder that tightly knit family and community networks, inherent in the country's agricultural sector, formed the bedrock of Thai society, and constituted an available reserve of "social capital" which had often been overlooked in the rush towards industrialization. The crisis had reawakened those inner strengths to enhance the resilience of society, making it better able to weather the social repercussions of the crisis.

27. With over half of the world's population, Asia's greatest resource was its people. The economic crisis, however, suggested that it was time to view people as more than resources, more than cheap labour to fuel Asia's growth machine. It was time to view people not as the means to development, but as the end.

28. There was a need to redouble efforts to provide people with the best in education and health care, so that they would have the capacity to do, and to be, what they chose. There was also a need to work with them to improve their lives, not by turning them into cheap unskilled labour but by helping them to develop the

potential of their local communities and resources. Only in a society in which all people enjoyed such rights and freedoms could sustainable development and true prosperity be achieved.

29. His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej had stated that, in order to weather the economic crisis, the Thai people needed to live by the concept of self-sufficiency. What that meant was not to overextend but to rediscover a sense of balance and moderation. It meant using traditional strengths to complement development endeavours so as to be better prepared for globalization and market liberalization. Reasonable rates of growth, with better income distribution and sustainable use of resources, would offer better protection from future economic turbulence. The economic crisis had imparted the lesson that there was more to development than growth. The time had come for development strategies to reflect that new-found awareness.

30. The challenges ahead were as yet unknown. However, the current challenge afforded a unique window of opportunity. If that opportunity could be used to rethink priorities, to undertake necessary reforms and to place power in the hands of the people, it should be possible to cope with anything that came along in the current age of global complexity.

31. With sound fundamentals, abundant natural resources and well-educated and hard-working human resources, there were reasons for optimism. Moreover, as a member of the international community, Thailand stood ready, as it always had, to extend cooperation to the United Nations, and especially to ESCAP, with its headquarters in Bangkok.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP

32. The Executive Secretary welcomed those attending the session. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister of Thailand for inaugurating the session, thus reaffirming his country's dedication to the aims and ideals of the Charter of the United Nations and its support of the Commission's commitment to the enhancement of economic and social development in the region.

33. A number of countries in the region had experienced considerable financial turmoil since the fifty-third session of the Commission. The ramifications of the crisis had been widespread and had affected other countries both within and outside the region in respect of trade and investment partnerships. The crisis had also attracted worldwide scrutiny and opinions. However, it also afforded a timely and important opportunity to reflect on the achievements and successes of the region and to build on the lessons of the past year to strengthen the basis for development and progress in the future.

34. When economic downturns occurred, the poorest people were often the ultimate sufferers. In a region in which the alleviation of poverty continued to be the major challenge, care and attention needed to be paid to consolidating development strategies and providing social security to the people.

35. ESCAP was one of the most important regional forums, with its central role in policy development through the sharing of experience. It placed great emphasis on assisting developing countries of the region to build their own capacities and form close ties with other countries, both in the region and globally, for assistance through such programmes as TCDC and third-country training programmes. Within the United Nations, discussions on the role of the regional commissions were continuing at the highest level, and assurances had been received that the commissions played an important and vital part in the functioning and success of the system as a whole.

36. The current session of the Commission would enable a debate and exchange of views on the challenges and opportunities for ESCAP. The challenges were many, but the opportunity to confront those challenges could also be created and nurtured through mutual goodwill, support and cooperation.

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

37. In his message, the Secretary-General noted that the fifty-fourth session of the Commission was taking place at an important juncture in the region's history. During the past year, some of the region's most dynamic economies had been afflicted by sudden and largely unforeseen financial crises that had wide-ranging effects not only within the region but throughout the world. The turmoil of the past few months had served as a sobering reminder of the challenges posed by globalization and ever-increasing interdependence.

38. Some countries in the region faced profound adjustments. Others were preoccupied with the long-standing and overriding challenge of alleviating grinding poverty. Asia included the largest number of the world's poor, and recent events had threatened to increase that number further. Efforts to meet the needs of those vulnerable members of society remained a priority. Bringing them into the mainstream of development represented perhaps the biggest challenge of all, but not one that was beyond the reach of governments and civil society.

39. ESCAP, along with regional and subregional organizations, had an important role to play. The Secretary-General was committed to ensuring that the United Nations system remained a close partner of the countries of Asia and the Pacific as they continued their

hard work for stability and development. While it was an especially difficult time for the region, there were grounds for optimism: sound fundamentals, abundant natural resources and a well-educated labour force.

40. The Secretary-General conveyed his best wishes for the success of the session in searching for solutions to the current problems, in seeking to prevent future upheavals, and in addressing other pressing issues facing the region.

Policy issues for the ESCAP region

Policy statement of the Executive Secretary

41. The Executive Secretary noted that some of the most dynamic economies in the region had been facing an unprecedented economic crisis since the second half of 1997. The widening current account deficits as a result of the slowdown in global demand for some key export products, the erosion of competitive advantage in labour-intensive manufactures, and the appreciation in real effective exchange rates, were identified as some of the causes of the crisis. Some further dimensions of the crisis were the financing of deficits by easily reversible short-term external capital inflows, some degree of misallocation of resources and the burdening of intermediating financial institutions with non-performing loans, the loss of confidence in the financial systems, and the twin crises of the drastic depreciation in exchange rates and the fall in stock market indices.

42. Despite the severity of the crisis, the Executive Secretary expressed optimism about the overall growth prospects of the region on the basis, *inter alia*, that the crisis had remained confined to a few countries, reform measures in the affected countries had already lifted the exchange rates and stock markets from their lowest depths, and growth prospects elsewhere in the region remained largely unimpaired by the crisis.

43. The establishment of an appropriate exchange rate regime, and the need to overcome weaknesses in the domestic financial sector, were two critical areas in which action was needed. A sound financial sector was a precondition for the liberalization of capital accounts. Governments in the region must establish proper regulatory and supervisory frameworks. As a part of such frameworks, accounting and disclosure requirements should be clearly specified. In particular, rules should be strengthened regarding non-performing loans and adequate provision to cover them, the legal lending limit on insider borrowing, the consolidation of reports of financial and related companies with extensive cross-holding and interlocking of ownership, and foreign debt holdings. The rules had to be strictly enforced by supervisory institutions equipped with adequate authority and competent human resources.

44. Domestic savings needed to be increased and the competitiveness of exports enhanced in order to reduce dependence on external capital inflows, particularly of the easily reversible short-term variety.

45. The Executive Secretary drew attention to proposals for setting up an Asian Fund, the use of regional currencies for intraregional trade, the establishment of an insurance scheme dealing with cross-border financial claims, and the adoption of common standards for overseeing financial sector institutions and sharing information relating to their operation. At the international level, a debt strategy including rollovers and rescheduling and external liquidity support for revival of export growth to deal with the immediate crisis, and in the longer term, the establishment of a system of global governance of private financial flows, required serious attention.

46. The Executive Secretary expressed the view that the current crisis should not undermine the commitment to growth with equity as the basic objective of development. There was no inherent trade-off between them. However, it was necessary for social safety nets to be in place to cushion the impact of the crisis in such areas as poverty and employment, health care and education. A common endeavour to attain the vision of "A caring society for all" was required on the part of governments, the family of United Nations organizations and civil society. Greater attention needed to be paid to the provision of assistance to the poor and disadvantaged population groups, while promoting their full participation in society. There was a need for policies that would promote good governance and wide awareness of the key social issues.

47. The Executive Secretary drew the Commission's attention to the secretariat's continued efforts to enhance regional economic cooperation, and cited the recent establishment of Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIMST-EC), and the initiative, jointly with ECE, of the development of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), to facilitate the economic integration of the countries of Central Asia with both Europe and Asia, as well as to strengthen economic cooperation among themselves.

48. In order to meet the challenges posed by the setback to the region's industrial development caused by the current crisis, increased efforts were needed at all levels to ensure that the process of industrial and technological growth went ahead. The Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, which had been held at Bangkok from 19 to 24 February 1998, had adopted the Regional Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development, which emphasized the need for greater regional cooperation in industrial and technological development in respect of the utilization of industrial complementarities, investment-related technology transfer, human resources development, and

the speedy integration of the least developed countries, Pacific island economies and economies in transition into the regional mainstream of trade and investment flows.

49. The Executive Secretary emphasized the importance of the provision of more efficient, more accessible, less costly and environmentally sound transport infrastructure for overall economic growth. He informed the Commission that the secretariat's support activities, including efforts to enlist the private sector in infrastructure development, were being further strengthened.

50. Drawing attention to the environmental deterioration in the region, the Executive Secretary pointed out that there was an urgent need for closer regional cooperation to address the common sustainable development issues, which included strategic environmental planning, the implementation of Agenda 21, follow-up of the global environmental conventions, and reversing trends towards increasing pollution, loss of biodiversity and accumulation of hazardous wastes.

51. The Executive Secretary reminded the Commission of the problem identified as "the year 2000 bug" affecting computers. The millennium bug, or Y2K, could paralyse not only individual applications but whole economies, by interrupting electricity supply, telecommunications, financial transactions and other services on which modern societies depended. It was therefore becoming very urgent for all organizations to make their mission-critical applications year 2000 compliant, and to draw up contingency plans for the possibility of system failures.

52. The Executive Secretary expressed the desire to make ESCAP a more effective and responsive vehicle for the promotion of regional cooperation in the new millennium. In that connection, he sought the Commission's views and guidance on the nature and direction of the ESCAP reform efforts.

Implications of recent economic and social developments

53. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1081, as well as the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1998*. In reviewing recent economic and social developments in the region, the Commission noted the severe financial and economic crisis that some of the most dynamic economies of the region had been experiencing since mid-1997.

54. The Commission held the view that the financial crisis was a complex phenomenon with both endogenous and exogenous causes. Globalization had provided the economies of the region with opportunities and challenges which entailed both benefits and costs. A number of countries in the region had faced significant risks as the liberalization of trade, investment and financial markets increased the exposure of their domestic economy to external shocks. Countries with robust economic growth and otherwise sound macroeconomic fundamentals had thus suffered the shock through the slowdown in world trade and appreciation of their currencies in 1996 and 1997, which, in turn, had exposed some of their underlying structural weaknesses. A widening of current account deficits with declining exports had led to a sudden aggravation of the problem of accumulating private sector debts and non-performing loans in the domestic financial systems. Eventually, the countries had come to face a crisis of investor confidence which was the most proximate cause of the turmoil.

55. The Commission placed strong emphasis on the need to analyse further the causes and consequences of the financial crisis, and the action necessary to overcome them. It was necessary also to spell out policy options at the national, regional and international levels, not only to mitigate the effects of the current crisis but also to prevent its future recurrence.

56. At the national level, establishing an appropriate exchange rate regime and overcoming the weakness of the domestic financial sector were of paramount importance to reduce the volatility of large movements of short-term capital. The supervisory and monitoring capacity of the financial sector by the central bank had to be strengthened. Transparency in the operations of financial sector institutions should be enhanced.

57. At the regional level, arrangements for transmitting accurate, transparent and timely information for financial markets were needed. The role of cooperative financing arrangements to supplement the resources of IMF in times of need was noted. The importance of several other regional-level actions, such as a regional surveillance mechanism, the development of an early warning system, clearing mechanisms, the use of regional currencies for trade transactions and regional bond markets, was emphasized.

58. At the international level, a framework of surveillance and supervision similar to that available in the arena of trade was needed.

59. The Commission was informed of the various reforms being carried out by the developing countries of the region as part of their efforts to overcome the current crisis as well as towards the objective of further liberalization and integration of their economies internationally. It was also informed of the assistance being rendered by a number of member countries of ESCAP, both bilaterally and as part of multilateral assistance packages, to the countries in the region affected by the crisis.

60. The Commission suggested that the secretariat, in cooperation with other international agencies, should form a multidisciplinary team to study the origins and effects of the current economic and monetary turmoil and recommend ways and means for economies to avail

themselves of international capital flows while minimizing the attendant risks. In that connection, the Commission welcomed the recent initiative taken by the secretariat to organize a seminar jointly with IMF, the World Bank and ADB in June 1998.

61. The Commission expressed optimism about the long-term growth prospects of the region, including the most affected countries, in view of their strength in terms of natural resources, well-educated labour force and generally prudent macroeconomic management. The crisis would nevertheless have a serious adverse impact on the region as a whole. The crisis pointed up the vulnerability of all economies, including those not directly exposed to financial market volatility and turbulence. Because of spillover effects, setbacks in any one country could not be kept confined within its borders. Driven by globalization and interdependence through trade, investment and financial flows, as well as labour movement across borders, the contagion effect could reach regional and global proportions.

62. The Commission expressed concern over the adverse implications of the economic downturn in the region for social development, in terms of a rise in unemployment and inflation. Cuts in social programmes by governments could affect socially vulnerable groups. The resultant social instability could hamper economic reform. An important lesson that could be learned from recent experience was that economic growth became unsustainable if adequate attention was not paid to investment in people. Social development was important not only in itself but also as a precondition for sustainable economic growth.

63. The Commission observed that the financial crisis and its attendant consequences on economic and social development in the region made it imperative for greater emphasis to be placed on social development and the reduction of poverty. The high rates of economic growth achieved by countries in the region in the past had not necessarily brought commensurate success in social development. It was essential, therefore, to consider how to improve national development strategies with a view to achieving not only long-term sustainable growth of the economy but also continued social development, alleviation of poverty, and enhancement of the welfare of society through health, education and social security measures.

64. The Commission agreed that economic development served as the basis for social development, and that was particularly true for developing economies. It was necessary to recognize fully the mutually supportive relationship between economic development and social progress.

65. In that context, the Commission reiterated that the economic and social problems of different countries were interconnected. Efforts of individual countries could not therefore be sufficient to resolve the problems, and concerted efforts at the regional and international levels were needed for tackling them. At the national level, effective implementation of sound social development programmes required partnerships of governments, civil societies, and subregional, regional and international organizations.

66. The Commission recognized the interdependence of development and environment issues in addressing poverty alleviation. It highlighted the need for environmental conservation, the prevention of natural resource degradation, the promotion of strategic approaches to water resources management, and action to deal with natural disasters such as floods, drought, cyclones, earthquakes and forest fires, including the effects of the El Niño phenomenon. The Commission was also briefed on the need for technical cooperation in environmental management of the Aral Sea and the Caspian Sea. Special mention was made of the need for the promotion of clean-coal technology for energy development. The Commission held the view that the secretariat should complement the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and give particular attention to the implementation of the recommendations of the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, held in June 1997.

67. The Commission expressed deep appreciation of the offer of the Government of India to host the second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in 1999. It recommended that timely programmes should be initiated and more resources committed to address the emergent issues in that area on a priority basis.

68. The Commission emphasized the need for progress in economic and social development to be spread equitably throughout the diverse ESCAP region. The Pacific island, least developed and landlocked countries required greater international cooperation and assistance to make their economies more efficient and competitive. Along with trade and investment support measures, it was necessary to arrest the decline in ODA, which was the principal form of external capital inflow for those countries.

69. The Commission recognized the important and growing role of ESCAP in promoting trade and regional economic cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region. Expressing concern that the increasing use of non-tariff measures was impairing greater market access resulting from trade liberalization under the Uruguay Round agreements, the Commission called for the suppression of any upsurge in protectionism. It also urged full implementation of the Comprehensive and Integrated WTO Plan of Action for the Least Developed Countries. The suggestion was made that ESCAP should assist the small economies in their effective participation in WTO and in deriving due benefit from its membership.

70. The Commission appreciated the special role played by ESCAP in promoting subregional and

intersubregional cooperation in and between ASEAN, SAARC, ECO and the Forum Secretariat, and in the recently established BIMST-EC. It noted the interest of some other countries in being associated with BIMST-EC.

71. The Commission recognized the importance of SPECA, promoted by ESCAP and ECE, in addressing the special needs of the economies in transition and in facilitating their economic integration into the Asian economy and the global economy. It noted the interest of some other countries in participating in and contributing to the implementation of the Programme.

72. The Commission noted that electronic commerce was becoming almost an inevitable trend of development. It appreciated the activities being undertaken by the secretariat to assist the developing countries in that new mode of conducting trade and in developing a regional approach for creating an environment in which electronic commerce could flourish.

73. Constant vigilance was necessary to sustain the development process. The ESCAP secretariat was a valuable resource for the region. It could advise member governments on policy options and warn them about potential problems. The work of ESCAP remained very relevant and had the potential to help meet the region's social and economic aspirations.

74. In that context, the Commission expressed appreciation of the reform efforts so far undertaken by ESCAP, including the streamlined conference and programme structures. It urged the secretariat to carry those efforts further, by prioritizing its programme of work on the basis of its core competencies, with a view to devoting more of the scarce resources of ESCAP to activities of the highest priority to its member States. ESCAP should demonstrate its comparative advantage and improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of its programme delivery. The secretariat's programme support resources should be reduced, in keeping with the decision of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in July 1997, and resources within the programme of work should be redeployed from low- to high-priority areas, as well as from meetings and publications to technical assistance activities.

75. The Commission attached great importance to the role of ESCAP as convener of RICAP, with a view to coordinating the United Nations economic and social development activities in the region and to forming strategic alliances with the concerned global United Nations entities in the conduct of both policy-level and operational activities. Such cooperation and collaboration within and beyond the United Nations system should serve to ensure synergy and complementarity among the programmes of work of the concerned organizations, and the avoidance of duplication.

Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: prospects for social development

76. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1082, summarizing the theme study contained in the publication, *Asia and the Pacific into the Twenty-first Century: Prospects for Social Development*. It commended the secretariat on the high quality of the documentation and endorsed the findings therein.

77. The Commission considered the region's prospects for social development into the twenty-first century, including the major demographic trends and key social issues, covering poverty alleviation, employment expansion and social integration. It also discussed the major issues and policy approaches for specific population groups comprising the poor, youth, older persons, women and disabled persons.

78. It was noted that, in evaluating their prospects for social development into the next century, countries of the region needed to consider changes in the socio-economic, political and technological framework and their respective needs in modifying or adapting to those changes. Those included the following: the impact of economic liberalization and globalization processes; the demographic changes as fertility rates decreased and the number and proportion of older persons rose dramatically in many populations; the rapid rate of population growth in urban areas; the high levels of mobility of capital and labour; the tremendous advances in science and technology; and the changes in family and community structures. While the issues that stemmed from those very pronounced trends were many and complex, all had the capacity to affect social development prospects adversely unless they were addressed appropriately at policy and programme levels.

79. The Commission observed that population factors played a major role in socio-economic development and that demographic conditions were diverse among countries of the region. It noted current demographic trends indicating that, in some countries, urban poverty was likely to increase in the future in both absolute and relative terms. Measures were therefore needed to alleviate poverty in conjunction with reducing morbidity, infant, child and maternal mortality and high fertility and population growth rates. It was also necessary to improve the implementation of health and population programmes; to increase literacy, particularly of females; to foster gender equity; to protect migrant workers; to improve life expectancy, while preparing for the ageing of the population; and to enhance the quality of life.

80. The Pacific island developing countries suffered from unique population problems: as their population size was small, the impact of the problems was inordinate. For example, some island developing countries had high population density in urban areas with concomitant environmental degradation and

resource depletion; others lacked the "critical mass" of population needed to develop the economy and society. By contrast, countries with a large population faced quite different problems, such as varying levels of development and fertility in different areas of the country that made national planning and development programming difficult.

81. The Commission stressed the need for extensive cooperation and concerted efforts of countries in the region and the international community to address the population and development issues that had a regional or international impact. In that context, the Commission welcomed the cooperation between ESCAP and UNFPA in jointly organizing a high-level meeting on population in March 1998.

82. It called on the secretariat to continue playing a catalytic role in the exchange of experience, institutional initiatives, dissemination of information, and technical assistance and training.

83. The Commission noted that, in recent decades, the Asian and Pacific region as a whole had made considerable progress in almost all areas of social development, owing largely to the remarkable progress in economic development. All indicators of social well-being, including in the fields of education, employment, health, social welfare and the environment, had generally shown significant improvement in recent decades. The adoption by governments of the region in 1991 of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond and of the 1994 Manila Declaration on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region had provided an impetus to that progress. The endorsement by those governments of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action on Social Development had given a further boost to social development efforts.

84. The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the Manila Declaration on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region and reiterated the importance of the Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region in the context of the current regional socio-economic upheavals. It welcomed the decision to convene in 1999 a regional meeting of senior officials to review the implementation of the regional Agenda for Action in preparation for the global review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development by the General Assembly in 2000.

85. It shared national experience in the implementation of national social development programmes in accordance with the regional Agenda for Action and the Programme of Action on Social Development. It was generally agreed that social progress in the region had been extremely uneven across subregions and countries, as well as between areas and population groups within countries. That unevenness underscored the need for the region not only to continue its efforts to promote the well-being of all of its people but also to prioritize for attention the provision of assistance to the less developed countries and regions as well as to the poor and other disadvantaged and vulnerable population groups, while enhancing their capabilities and promoting their full participation in all the activities of society.

86. The Commission observed that, notwithstanding the expressed commitment to social development, the measures taken by governments had not been as strong as the situation required. The focus in many countries remained predominantly on economic development, even though there was widespread recognition that success in economic development did not necessarily enhance the social development prospects or the overall quality of life for all population sectors. Inadequate attention was given to capability-building, the strengthening of local authority, families and communities, resource mobilization and targeting of programmes to accelerate social development. Furthermore, there was a regionwide need to provide an enabling environment conducive to social progress.

87. The Commission identified policies in several areas of concern which could enhance social development prospects in the region: (a) promoting an enabling environment, including promoting participation and equity, social concern and security, and good governance; (b) accelerating poverty alleviation, employment generation and social integration; (c) building capacities; (d) strengthening families and communities; (e) promoting partnerships; and (f) providing regional support. The last area contained proposals on regional cooperation modalities and the role of ESCAP in promoting acceleration of the social development process.

88. The Commission underlined the importance, particularly in countries affected by the current economic crisis, of regional support measures oriented to the forging of "a caring society for all" which addressed issues relating to specific population groups. Those included measures such as poverty alleviation, employment generation and provision of social services to the poor; education and provision of skills training and productive employment for youth; health, income security and care-giving for older persons; narrowing the gender gap in literacy and education, employment and wages; and ensuring that persons with disabilities could live a full and active life in their housing and living environment, in a workplace in which they were not discriminated against, and in a society which accepted them.

89. At the threshold of the new millennium, the Commission declared that the fight against poverty must continue unabated. It emphasized that poverty was a pervading development concern with deep social,

economic, cultural and political ramifications and would have an insidious impact on the achievement of social development and progress in the region in the twenty-first century. It lauded the positive progress that had been made by its members and associate members in recent decades in the significant reduction in the incidence of poverty in many countries of the region as a result of economic prosperity and greater levels of social concern. However, it expressed deep concern that legions of the absolute poor remained, most of whom resided in South Asia, and that they were burdened by the constraints of ill health, illiteracy, hunger, unemployment and social discrimination.

90. Furthermore, the Commission noted that the threat of increasing poverty continued to loom over all subregions, including East and South-East Asia, the economies in transition and the Pacific island developing countries. Indeed, some countries in East and South-East Asia that had been experiencing spectacular growth and prosperity in the past decades were currently faced with increasing levels of poverty, particularly as a result of the economic upheavals accompanying the currency and financial volatility of the past year. It cautioned that further deterioration in social and poverty conditions could be expected if the social issues were not addressed within the recovery programmes led by IMF and the World Bank. Additional challenges to poverty alleviation were being faced in the wake of El Niño and other environmental impacts on the development and well-being of people. The Commission noted the impact and the potential of science and technology and environmental concerns in poverty alleviation strategies.

91. In reviewing the national poverty alleviation strategies, the Commission reiterated the inextricable interrelationship between economic growth and social development. It emphasized the need to give equal weight to social development, and particularly to the imperative of people-centred development and distributive equity, if overall national development and progress were to be sustained. It stressed that the resources allocated to poverty alleviation programmes should not be diminished in the face of the economic downturn. It also underscored the importance of greater efficiency in the use of resources and targeting of the poor to ensure that the goals of poverty alleviation could be met effectively. It was also clear that poverty alleviation could not be achieved purely through the market process.

92. The Commission commended the role of ESCAP in providing technical assistance to governments in national capacity-building, particularly in social policy analysis and the development of comprehensive multisectoral strategies for poverty alleviation integrated within national development plans. It requested continuing support for those efforts and the wider dissemination of regional experience through regional meetings, field seminars, publications and regional advisory services to impart best practices in social policy formulation for poverty alleviation; the conduct of regional studies on the social impact of new and emerging development challenges, such as the current financial crisis; modalities for improving the targeting of poverty alleviation programmes; the provision of social safety nets; programmes for the empowerment of the poor; financial resource mobilization; and improved partnerships and concerted action among all development actors for poverty alleviation.

93. The need to incorporate social development goals, in particular those related to the eradication of poverty and the promotion of employment in structural adjustment and other macroeconomic policies and programmes, was highlighted in the deliberations. The secretariat was requested to conduct a survey to monitor the impact of such programmes and policies on the poor, taking into account the factors that influenced the participation of the poor in the development process.

94. The Commission underscored the vital importance of an enabling international environment for poverty alleviation, noting with concern the overall decrease in ODA flows. It called on the developed members to strive to meet their agreed commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of their GNP to ODA. The Commission also requested support from the international community for the voluntary initiative among some governments and bilateral and multilateral donor agencies to augment resources for social development through the 20/20 compact on human development.

95. The Commission reiterated the importance of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, in the endeavours of ESCAP in the field of social development. The Government of Japan informed the Commission that it had extended Decade-related development assistance in training and other aspects of rehabilitation. Furthermore, it would continue its active contribution in the second half of the Decade, in collaboration with ESCAP and other international institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations. By the end of the year, a study would be conducted on the best modalities for Japan's cooperation in projects concerning disabled persons, and a mission would be despatched to countries of the region to identify specific cooperation projects. The attention of the Commission was drawn to a Japanese NGO exhibition of *Saori* cloths woven by disabled persons and held in conjunction with the fifty-fourth session. The exhibition was a special contribution of the Government of Japan to the session, to mark the inception of the second half of the Decade.

96. The Commission recognized that strengthened action was required to foster an enabling environment for persons with disabilities, who continued to be marginalized from the mainstream of society, to increase their capacity-building and contribution to

society. It emphasized the importance of the revitalization of national commitment to the fulfilment of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, and regional action to promote the implementation of the Agenda.

97. The Commission took note of the initiatives that members and associate members had taken to improve the economic and social status of women. Those measures included increasing access to education, health services and employment opportunities; the establishment of national machineries for the advancement of women; the adoption of national plans of action for women; and enhanced participation in the political and decision-making process in some cases. However, the lack of gender equality remained problematic and it was pointed out that social customs and traditions, illiteracy, limited access to technical and vocational training and lack of employment opportunities had hampered the integration of women into the mainstream of economic activity. Furthermore, since women were often the most affected by poverty, the Commission noted with concern the negative effects of the current financial crisis and the possible socio-economic repercussions on the poor, particularly on women.

98. The Commission stressed the critical importance of human resources development as the basis for the long-term and sustainable development of the countries of the ESCAP region. It was felt that human resources development was the primary determinant of sustainable economic growth, as well as the means of attaining an enhanced quality of life for the people of the region.

99. The Commission stressed the need to promote investment in the region's human resources, particularly the vulnerable social groups in society. It expressed the hope that the current economic crisis would not result in a reduction of programmes to develop the region's human resources. Several delegations reaffirmed their countries' commitment to supporting programmes to develop their human resources, despite the setbacks encountered as a result of the economic crisis.

100. The Commission urged the secretariat to support national efforts to promote the human resources development of vulnerable social groups, particularly in those countries severely affected by the current economic crisis.

101. The secretariat was urged to focus priority attention in its human resources development programme on promoting education and training for productive employment for youth, since that target group would be the most negatively affected by the current labour market situation resulting from the economic crisis in parts of the region.

102. The Commission underlined the importance of promoting partnerships among the various actors and institutions concerned with social development: governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the business sector. In line with the concept of "a caring society for all", it was felt that those partnerships could cover a wide range of activities from policy formulation to grass-roots service delivery. The important collaborators would include national, provincial and local government agencies, the business sector, and civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, trade unions and community-based organizations. External actors included bilateral and multilateral donors, international and regional intergovernmental bodies, including ESCAP, transnational corporations and non-governmental organizations. Government agencies would have to play a leadership and facilitating role in planning, policy and strategy formulation, and programme and project activities. They would also be at the forefront in mobilizing resources, from both national and international sources. However, the participation of other actors, particularly the client groups, in identifying needs and defining priorities, contributing to policies and strategies, designing programmes and implementing, monitoring and evaluating them, was necessary for the success of social development programmes.

103. Noting that the secretariat was well placed to monitor social development trends and issues and analyse national policy approaches, the Commission requested the secretariat, in cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations such as ADB, ASEAN, ECO, SAARC and the Pacific Community to undertake analyses, identify resource requirements, disseminate information on social indicators, policies and programmes, and provide advisory services and technical assistance. It was recognized that those and other activities by the ESCAP secretariat recommended by the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development to accelerate the effective implementation of the regional Agenda for Action would help to mobilize the concerted efforts needed to support action for poverty alleviation in the region. In that regard, noting the recent strides made in information technology, the Commission requested the secretariat to use the Internet in its information dissemination activities.

ESCAP reform

Follow-up to resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission

104. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1083, which focused on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission.

105. The Commission welcomed the measures taken so far on ESCAP reform. It reiterated that the process

of reform was ongoing and should aim to sharpen the focus of work of the Commission, based on its comparative advantage, and to improve its ability to meet the evolving priority needs of the region efficiently and effectively.

106. The Commission noted that ESCAP had been engaged in the reform exercise over a considerable period of time. Those reform efforts needed to be pursued in the broader context of economic and social developments in the region and the Commission's ability to respond, in an adequate and timely manner, to emerging problems. In keeping with the times, ESCAP needed to continue adjusting itself to changing circumstances and conditions to ensure that it remained relevant and responsive to the needs of the membership.

107. The Commission emphasized the need to devise clearer objectives in the activities of ESCAP and to set time-frames to achieve those objectives. The regular monitoring and impact assessment capabilities of ESCAP needed to be strengthened. In addition, the results of the questionnaire on priorities and resource allocation should be reflected in the programme planning and budgeting process as soon as possible. The Commission recommended that the activities and services offered by ESCAP, and the success stories, should be made more widely known, by both the secretariat and member governments. It welcomed the revival of the ESCAP Publications Committee, which would serve to control the quality and quantity of publications under the regular budget, with a view to redeploying some resources to training and technical assistance activities.

108. The Commission noted the usefulness of the recent informal consultations of the Economic and Social Council at United Nations Headquarters, which had served to bring together the executive secretaries of the five regional commissions, and suggested that the information in respect of the reforms of the other regional commissions should be made available to ESCAP members and associate members. In response to a query concerning the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the regional commissions, the secretariat pointed out that the proposed revision to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 would streamline the secretariat's programme structure to 7 subprogrammes from 10. The secretariat would be restructured to correspond to the revised programme structure. The secretariat informed the Commission of its continuing effort to further reduce programme support costs, including the redeployment of posts from programme support areas to programme areas. The Commission requested the secretariat to provide a preliminary report to member governments, through ACPR, on that subject in advance of the session of the Economic and Social Council to be held in July 1998.

109. In endorsing the revised programme structure, the Commission emphasized the need to take into account the ongoing process of United Nations reform to avoid duplication by concerned organizations and to ensure greater complementarity in their programmes and activities. The possibility of holding sessions of some of the legislative committees every two years was also raised. The secretariat explained that any change to the conference structure would have to be discussed by members and associate members and approved by the Commission.

The role of ESCAP in the promotion of economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific: draft ESCAP position paper for review by the Economic and Social Council

110. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1084, which examined the contribution of ESCAP to the region's economic and social development, the relations between ESCAP and its development partners and the challenges facing ESCAP in preparing for its continuing role in the twenty-first century. The document had been prepared by the secretariat in response to the Secretary-General's recommendation that the Economic and Social Council should initiate a general review of the regional commissions.

111. The Executive Secretary reported to the Commission that, at the informal consultations on the review of the regional commissions held in New York on 12 March 1998, a number of pertinent outcomes had emerged. First, it had been recognized that the regional commissions had undertaken serious, broad-based reform but needed to respond further to changing circumstances within their respective regions. It had also been found that there was a need to establish better linkages between the regional commissions and the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Bretton Woods institutions, other regional groupings, civil society and the private sector. The three-way linkage between the regional commissions, delegations at United Nations Headquarters and governments in the capitals also needed to be strengthened. There was a continuing need for a better balance between the operational role of the regional commissions and that of the other United Nations bodies and agencies. The consultations also concluded that the regional commissions had a role to play in the follow-up to global conferences and in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

112. The Commission found that document E/ESCAP/1084 gave useful background and guidelines and correctly highlighted the comparative advantage of ESCAP, particularly with respect to its interdisciplinary orientation. Strong support was voiced for the mandate of ESCAP as "team leader" for the United Nations system in the economic and social fields in Asia and the

Pacific. The Commission also suggested that it should lead, or at least mirror, the reform taking place in the United Nations system. A number of delegations expressed their strong support for RICAP and the role of ESCAP as convener and coordinator of that body. Particular value was accorded to the role of the Committee in avoiding unnecessary duplication and increasing the synergy and complementarity among the programmes of work of the respective entities. It was also pointed out that the coordination role of ESCAP should extend beyond the United Nations system to include other regional and subregional organizations, in order to achieve optimal use of existing resources. That process could also serve to ensure that the most efficient division of labour among the various concerned entities would prevail. In that regard, while ESCAP should endeavour not to duplicate the mandates of other United Nations bodies and agencies, those organizations should in turn respect the regional mandate of ESCAP. Some delegations considered that the document reflected traditional arguments instead of providing a useful input for the review being undertaken by the Economic and Social Council as part of the reform in the United Nations system. The possibility of expanding the membership of RICAP to include regional economic organizations was raised.

113. In considering operational activities, the Commission emphasized the need to continue forging strategic alliances between ESCAP and other United Nations bodies and agencies, as well as other relevant organizations in the region. It emphasized that resources, including regular budget resources, should be directed more to operational activities than to meetings and publications. In order to define more clearly the Commission's work programme priorities, it was urged that members and associate members which had not yet done so should complete the questionnaire on resource allocation that had been circulated by the secretariat in February 1997. That was considered especially important in view of the current decline in extrabudgetary funding, which had in the past been a major source of support for the Commission's operational activities. With further reference to such activities, it was suggested that non-governmental organizations should be given more opportunities to participate in the Commission's technical assistance projects.

114. The Commission expressed the view that members and associate members should make a greater effort to coordinate and exchange information between their representatives at the regional level and their counterparts at United Nations Headquarters in order to increase understanding of the role of ESCAP and the nature of its reform process, given its remote location from New York. In addition, such improved coordination could assist in identifying more precisely the requirements of the Commission with respect to the regular budget allocation and to ensure that decisions made in New York were relevant to the real needs at the regional level. It was suggested that, to assist with the ESCAP reform process, the Commission should take into account the reforms being conducted by other regional commissions.

115. At the conclusion of the debate, the Executive Secretary explained that inputs from all regional commissions, including the finalized version of document E/ESCAP/1084, would be consolidated in the report of the Secretary-General for review by the Economic and Social Council at its session in July 1998. The Commission expressed concern that its views on the reform of ESCAP would not be brought to the attention of the members of the Council. It emphasized that it would be useful for its views to be presented directly to the Council. That would be especially valuable as the contents of the ESCAP position paper might be diluted through its incorporation in the consolidated report. It was therefore agreed that the Chairman of the Commission would be invited to transmit to the Secretary-General and the President of the Council a letter detailing the views and concerns of the Commission.

Emerging issues and developments at the regional level

Regional economic cooperation

116. The Commission had before it documents on the financial crisis in the region and its policy implications (E/ESCAP/1085), on trade and investment (E/ESCAP/1086), and on the financing of industrial development (E/ESCAP/1087), as well as reports on the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology (E/ESCAP/1088), the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (E/ESCAP/1089), the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (E/ESCAP/1090) and cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization (E/ESCAP/1091).

117. While reiterating that the priority accorded to regional economic cooperation was an effective means of responding to the challenges and opportunities emerging from the intensifying process of globalization, the Commission acknowledged that the imperatives for such cooperation had become even more compelling in the light of the current financial crisis in the region.

The Asian financial crisis

118. The Commission expressed appreciation, in general, of the quality of the analysis of the financial crisis in the region and the policy implications contained in document E/ESCAP/1085. It was observed that while the worst of the crisis might be over, uncertainties prevailed. It was therefore necessary for the countries most affected by the crisis to continue to carry out

macroeconomic stabilization policies, as well as structural reforms, in combination with appropriate governmental supervision.

119. Countries that had not been directly affected by the financial crisis were also facing difficulties stemming from a deteriorating trading environment, diminished capital flows and reduced prospects for economic growth. It was important to sustain the momentum of growth in the region through domestic reforms and enhanced regional and international cooperation, including the avoidance of any upsurge in trade protectionism.

120. Vigilance should be maintained to ensure that the current crisis did not harm the least developed, landlocked or Pacific island countries or the economies in transition. In that context, the decline in flows of ODA was considered worrisome.

121. The implications of the economic crisis for the socially vulnerable were a cause of concern. Policies to assist the countries faced with crisis should be conducive to the attainment of social objectives.

122. Rebuilding investors' confidence was the most urgent task facing the most seriously affected economies. That would, in turn, require the pursuit of sound macroeconomic policies, as well as structural reforms, including financial sector reforms. In the context of financial sector reforms, particular emphasis was placed on the need for transparency and prudential supervision and regulation. Policy lessons for the avoidance of future crises had to do with early correction of macroeconomic imbalances, the components of which would include reduced reliance on external savings and better management of the current and capital accounts of the balance of payments.

123. A better framework of global surveillance and monitoring of international capital movements of a short-term nature was needed. There should be improved transparency on the part of all participants in the global financial system, namely governments, international financial institutions and market players, to ensure informed decisions and risk assessment by all concerned.

124. It would be useful to set up, at the regional level, mechanisms for the exchange of information, an early warning system and cooperative financing arrangements to supplement IMF resources in times of need.

125. The Commission recommended that the secretariat should harness its multidisciplinary expertise and, in collaboration with international financial institutions, recommend ways and means by which member countries could continue to avail themselves of international capital flows while minimizing financial and exchange risks.

Electronic commerce: the new agenda for trade promotion policy

126. The Commission acknowledged the importance of trade efficiency, in particular the use of electronic commerce, to improve the overall competitiveness of the countries and firms in the ESCAP region, and stressed the need to develop the region's capacity to adopt electronic commerce. It requested the secretariat to provide technical assistance for building awareness of and education on the different facets of electronic commerce. The areas for such technical assistance included the development of human resources, the adoption of standards and best practices for trade facilitation, methodologies to re-engineer trade processes, systems for financial payment and the legal framework. The Commission endorsed the holding of a high-level meeting of trade promotion policy experts on a regional approach to a trade promotion policy. In doing so, it suggested that due attention should be paid to the possibility of collaboration between the developed and the developing countries in the ESCAP region, as well as the need for a step-by-step approach to accommodate the requirements of developing countries.

127. The Commission noted the request of the World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises for the secretariat to provide small and medium-sized enterprises with assistance in enhancing their understanding of electronic commerce and to facilitate the adoption of the related measures.

128. The Commission expressed appreciation of the activities on trade and investment information networking and the application of new information technologies which enabled networks to become more relevant to ESCAP members and associate members, particularly the least developed among them. It noted that focusing on trade and investment information networks should decrease the number of impediments to the desired levels of trade and investment promotion, particularly at pre-transaction phases that were concerned with the identification of trade opportunities, the matching of strategic partners, trade flows of specific products, and market conditions, including non-tariff measures. Despite support for the services offered by the Regional Trade Information Network (TISNET) and the Investment Network Services of Asia and the Pacific (INSAP), it was suggested that, in the era of emerging information technologies and the creation of other networks, those services should be focused more on the needs of members and associate members and should address issues concerning the special needs of least developed countries as regards technical assistance.

World Trade Organization and the Uruguay Round

129. The wide-ranging issues covered under the Uruguay Round of agreements continued to place an onerous burden upon developing countries. The

Commission urged the secretariat to continue providing technical assistance to developing countries to support their efforts towards trade liberalization, to enhance their understanding of the implications of new issues as well as to assist them in the enhancement of capacity for effective participation in WTO activities and adequate preparation for further negotiations on the built-in agenda. The Commission also urged the secretariat to assist aspiring members to accede to WTO.

130. The Commission cautioned that the WTO agenda should not be overloaded, especially with issues that were extraneous to trade, and recommended that it should be confined to the built-in agenda as contained in the Uruguay Round agreements. Satisfactory implementation of existing agreements, particularly the special and differential treatment clauses, should take place before negotiations in new areas were begun. The secretariat was requested to assess the benefits accruing to developing countries from the implementation of existing Uruguay Round agreements. It stressed that all aspects of future WTO work programmes should take account of the development perspective. The Commission emphasized the importance of developing a positive proactive trade agenda and recognized the need to assist developing countries in identifying sectors of current and potential common interest to them.

131. The Commission endorsed the proposal to convene a meeting of senior officials at the regional level. It was suggested that the special needs of the least developed countries should also be addressed.

Diversification of trade and investment in Pacific island developing countries

132. The Commission expressed appreciation of the secretariat's catalytic role in promoting trade and investment on behalf of the Pacific island developing countries, including advisory services on trade policy and trade facilitation, and export promotion. It was recognized that TCDC was an important mechanism for implementing trade development and of common interest to several ESCAP members and associate members. Some delegations, including those of China and Thailand, indicated their continuing support for the Pacific island developing countries and the sharing of knowledge and experience with those countries through TCDC. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue identifying areas of collaboration for TCDC activities, especially those of a tripartite nature.

133. The Commission expressed appreciation of the initiative taken by the secretariat to focus on commodity trade problems of concern to the Pacific island developing countries, and to strengthen the trade and investment information networks in order to enhance the export capabilities of those countries.

134. One delegation observed that, in developing transport links between Pacific island developing countries and Asia, the proposed cooperation towards establishing an "open sky" policy over the Pacific should not be pursued owing to its controversial nature.

Regional developments

135. The Commission supported the secretariat's efforts to promote cooperation between subregional organizations in the region and urged the continuation and strengthening of such activities. The current status of recent developments in the region, SPECA and BIMST-EC, was noted by the Commission.

136. The Commission recognized the special needs of the Central Asian republics and welcomed the launching of SPECA at the meeting of the presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The meeting had adopted the Tashkent Declaration, which spelled out the objectives and priorities of SPECA.

137. The Commission held the view that SPECA provided a useful framework for cooperation among the Central Asian republics as well as for their integration into Asia and Europe. It acknowledged the contribution of ESCAP to the formulation and adoption of SPECA, and invited interested donor countries and international organizations to contribute to the Programme.

138. The Commission noted with interest the establishment of BIMST-EC. It further noted that the implementation of its Cooperative Work Programme had started with an ad hoc expert group meeting on public-private partnership in the BIMST-EC context held by ESCAP in March 1998. The meeting had provided an opportunity for business networking and made a series of important recommendations, including the establishment of the Business Forum and the holding of the first session of the Economic Forum.

139. The Commission invited interested donor countries and international organizations to support the BIMST-EC process. The delegation of Nepal expressed willingness to contribute to it in the fields of transport, tourism and energy. The delegation of Pakistan stated that Pakistan would consider joining at a later stage.

140. The Commission commended the ESCAP secretariat on the substantive backstopping which it had been providing to the BIMST-EC secretariat and its working group. It also acknowledged with appreciation the high quality of the ESCAP study which had initiated the BIMST-EC process, particularly the preparation of its development programme. It urged ESCAP to continue its support of BIMST-EC.

141. The Commission noted the statement made by the representative of the Asian Clearing Union and the request for the secretariat's continuing cooperation and support, particularly in the efforts of the Union to expand its membership.

Cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization

142. The Commission expressed appreciation of the secretariat's support of ECO. It recommended that practical steps should be taken to promote inter-subregional cooperation in the identified areas as a follow-up to the third Consultative Meeting among Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations and ESCAP, held at Tehran in May 1997.

143. The Commission noted that, as a result of the case study prepared by the secretariat on the promotion of trade and investment cooperation between ASEAN and ECO, the two organizations had agreed to institutionalize a relationship between their respective chambers of commerce, exchange representatives of the private sector, and hold the ASEAN-ECO workshop on international trade.

144. The Commission was apprised of the achievements of ECO in areas such as communications, transport, network of transnational oil and gas pipelines, energy, trade, human resources development, drug control and technology.

145. The Commission noted the statement made on behalf of the Secretary-General of ECO and duly reciprocated the interest expressed by him in pursuing cooperation with ESCAP within the scope defined by the Memorandum of Understanding. It also noted that the secretariat was invited to consider taking part in some other projects of interest to ECO, including (a) projects on the environmental rehabilitation of the Caspian Sea and Aral Sea basins; (b) technical assistance and mobilization of financial resources and the relevant multilateral funds to address problems such as desertification, land degradation, and conservation of biological diversity; and (c) assistance in bringing into operation the Drug Control Unit financed by UNDCP, particularly with regard to the establishment of a drug data bank and training facilities. In addition, ECO had requested the secretariat's assistance with data and information for bringing into operation its two new directorates, the Research and Statistics Directorate and the Economic Project Directorate. Other areas indicated for cooperation were industrial efficiency and complementarity, industrial management and skills development in private and public enterprises, reorientation of industrial policies and strategies, including privatization measures, development of small and medium-sized enterprises, formulation of a regional treaty on protection and promotion of investment in the ECO region and investment-related transfer of technology to the ECO member States.

Financing of industrial development

146. The Commission endorsed the findings and policy recommendations contained in document E/ESCAP/1087. It emphasized the importance of effective savings mobilization to enhance the supply of investment capital for industrial enterprises in general and for small and medium-sized enterprises in particular. To the extent that savings failed to meet the demand for investment capital, foreign portfolio investments and foreign direct investments could augment the savings shortfall. In that context, the Commission recommended the implementation of appropriate policies to maintain macroeconomic stability and ensure a stable and efficient financial system for the effective and efficient mobilization and allocation of financial resources. While it was agreed that ongoing liberalization of financial markets on the basis of proper sequencing was essential, the Asian financial crisis had brought to light the importance of strengthened prudential supervision and regulation. Particular concern could be placed on loan classification, risk reduction, the adoption of proper accounting procedures for ensuring transparency as well as timely and full disclosure of information, and the improvement of the competence of financial institutions and their regulatory bodies.

Report of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology

147. The Commission noted with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, held at Bangkok from 19 to 24 February 1998. The Meeting had deliberated on critical issues and concerns regarding the promotion of industrial and technological development in the region and had identified a number of crucial areas for cooperation.

148. The Commission endorsed the report of the Meeting of Ministers (E/ESCAP/1088), the Bangkok Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Industrial and Technological Development in the Asian and Pacific Region and the Regional Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development. It requested the secretariat to implement fully the various recommendations and suggestions contained in those two documents. It urged the secretariat to strengthen its activities in several areas, with priority being given to activities related to industrial restructuring, the promotion of industrial complementarities among subgroups of countries and economies, the improvement of the international competitiveness of the region's manufacturing industries, investment-related technology transfer, technological capability-building, skills development, private sector development, including privatization, and enhancement of the vitality of small and medium-sized enterprises by means of the wider implementation of ISO 9000 and ISO 14000. It also

requested the secretariat to undertake, on a priority basis, the study on the effects of the financial sector crisis on the industrial and technological development of the region. The Commission adopted resolution 54/3 on the Bangkok Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Industrial and Technological Development in the Asian and Pacific Region and the Regional Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development.

149. The Commission urged the secretariat to involve APCTT in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development and to seek responses from the members and associate members on specific projects for implementation. It expressed the hope that the seminar on enhancing regional cooperation in promoting industrial complementarities, scheduled to be held at New Delhi in November 1998, would help in identifying synergies for promoting cooperation in industrial development, especially for industrial complementarities and relocation of industries.

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

150. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Governing Board of APCTT contained in document E/ESCAP/1089.

151. It expressed appreciation of the useful activities of the Centre in implementing the four thrust areas of its work programme and the unique role it played in the area of technology transfer in the region. It recognized that the Centre had been working actively and in partnership with the private sector and urged it to continue that effort on a fee-charging basis, but to treat least developed, island developing and landlocked countries preferentially in that regard.

152. The Commission, while noting with satisfaction the initiatives of the Centre, urged it to strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises further in the utilization of environmentally sound technologies and environment management systems, along with ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 measures. It also noted that the Mechanism for Exchange of Technology Information had progressed successfully and was instrumental in facilitating the transfer and application of innovative technologies.

153. The Commission further noted with appreciation the publications and information materials generated by the Centre and their usefulness to its clientele. Those were being translated into local languages by partner institutions or associations in member countries.

154. The Commission urged the Centre to enhance further its activities aimed at promoting the subject of technology management, with special emphasis on strategic and associated issues. It also commended the Centre on its activities aimed at promoting the integration of women in technological development.

155. The Commission stressed that the participating countries should consider the secondment of professional staff to the Centre and urged donors to support those of its programmes which were commensurate with the demands placed on it. The establishment of an endowment fund was strongly supported, and the working group established to examine that issue was urged to produce viable recommendations to make the endowment fund a reality.

156. The Commission gratefully acknowledged the substantial institutional and programme assistance received from the Governments of Germany and the Netherlands and from UNDP. It expressed gratitude to all members for providing institutional support to APCTT, and especially to the Government of India for providing host facilities.

Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery

157. The Commission expressed appreciation of the activities of RNAM and the benefits received by the participating countries therefrom, especially in the areas of human resources development, enhancement of employment opportunities for rural women, promotion and development of agro-related metalworking industries for least developed countries, and exchange of useful agro-machines and technologies among them. In view of the beneficial work undertaken by the Network, the Commission emphasized that the activities of the project should be continued and further strengthened.

158. The Commission acknowledged with thanks the financial assistance provided by the Governments of China, Japan and the Netherlands for the various activities of the Network, and the participating countries for their cash contributions. It noted with concern, however, the financial difficulties encountered by the Network and recommended that the ESCAP secretariat should initiate new consultations with UNDP, UNIDO and bilateral donors to solicit financial support from them so that the useful activities of the Network could be continued. It urged countries to make their contributions regularly and on time so as to alleviate the financial flow problems encountered by the Network for institutional support. Furthermore, it requested countries in a position to do so to provide experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis to the Network.

Environment and natural resources development

Report of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development on its fourth session

159. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development on its fourth session (E/ESCAP/1092). It took note of the Committee's in-depth deliberations on

three selected issues: (a) refinement and promotion of methodologies for the integration of the environment and development; (b) environmental aspects of coal-based energy and its more efficient use; and (c) environmental management of mineral resource development in the Asian and Pacific region. The Commission expressed appreciation to the secretariat for organizing a panel discussion on the issue of integration of the environment and development.

160. There was a need for the use of economic instruments, particularly innovative mechanisms to supplement command and control measures to encourage the private sector to adopt and develop environmentally sound technology. Through a balanced mix of instruments, including economic and legislative measures, as well as social awareness, better results could be achieved. The Commission recommended that efforts and studies should be undertaken to strengthen regional cooperation in the promotion of the use of economic instruments.

161. Concern was expressed by a number of delegations over the inadequate commitment of developed countries to facilitating and financing the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms, in accordance with the provisions of Agenda 21. The Commission held the view that wide adoption of clean technology and the free flow of the related information should be encouraged through regional cooperation. A consultative mechanism could be set up for coordinating the work of various regional and international bodies in those areas. The Commission noted with appreciation the round-table meeting on clean technology to be organized jointly by the Republic of Korea and UNEP in the second half of 1998. It suggested that partnerships between the public and private sectors for investments in cleaner technology should be enhanced and the private sector should be encouraged to develop niches in environmental technologies and products to meet the market demand. The Commission expressed appreciation of the active role of APCTT in the transfer of environmental technology in the region.

162. The Commission encouraged the continued use of environmental impact assessment for enhanced management of the environment. It recommended that further efforts should be made to strengthen the capacity of the countries in the region to prepare, review and approve environmental impact assessments.

163. The Commission endorsed the view that ISO 14000 management standards should be voluntary and not linked to international trade issues. To avoid the use of environmental standards and measures as new forms of non-tariff barriers to trade, particularly on the exports of developing countries, consensus was required on international environmental policies.

164. The Commission welcomed the secretariat's initiative in facilitating the exchange of information and expertise to build local capacity. An integrated planning and resource management system, with the application of natural resource accounting to provide indicators and feedback regarding the sustainability of resource use, and strengthened environment databases and information systems were effective processes and tools in the promotion of sustainable development.

165. There was a need to promote clean-coal technologies to minimize the negative impact on the environment of the use of coal. There was also a need to intensify the exchange of knowledge and the sharing of information through training, study tours, seminars and workshops, as well as pilot projects in the areas of advanced technologies (such as the integrated gasification combined cycle) and beneficiation of low-grade coal. Regional cooperation and partnership among the public and private sectors could also facilitate the adaptation of new technologies. A request was made to the secretariat to provide advisory services in clean-coal technologies.

166. The Commission emphasized the need to strengthen its assistance to members and associate members in alleviating environmental degradation related to mining activities. The secretariat was requested to continue technical assistance in formulating effective environmental management policies, legislation and regulatory mechanisms so as to strengthen institutional capability and coordinating mechanisms at the national level. It was further requested to focus on the use of economic instruments and appropriate environmental impact assessment methodologies, which would further strengthen environmental management practices related to mining and mineral resource development. In addition, the Commission noted the need for further efforts to integrate host communities as stakeholders in mining activities. It requested the secretariat to act as a major repository and information centre for mineral resource assessment and development in the region. A request was also made for technical assistance, as well as advisory services for policy makers and operational managers, in the field of traditional gold-mining management. The Commission noted with satisfaction the activities of the secretariat in developing the framework of the project on the review of policy and mineral resource potential in the offshore, coastal and inland areas in North-East Asia, and expressed interest in the follow-up project on GIS application in mineral resource assessment in that subregion.

167. The Commission continued to accord high priority to space technology applications and confirmed the decision taken at its fifty-third session to convene in 1999 the second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission welcomed the generous

offer of the Government of India to host that Conference and urged the secretariat to expedite the preparatory work.

168. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of Japan to make available to other countries the guidelines and manuals on air pollution control in which the Japanese experience was documented. It was mentioned that the Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific (ECO ASIA) had been organized in close cooperation with ESCAP, and that that forum could contribute to ESCAP activities, particularly the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, to be held in 2000. The Commission also noted the establishment of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies by Japan and that many countries and international organizations had become signatories to its charter. It welcomed the efforts of Japan to organize the eighth Asian-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change, to be held in Thailand in 1998, to promote the implementation of the outcome of the protocol adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, at its third session held at Kyoto in December 1997.

169. The Commission called on the secretariat to continue its efforts to provide technical assistance to the developing member countries in strengthening and augmenting their national capabilities. It expressed appreciation of the continuing funding support provided by donors for the environment and natural resources programme of ESCAP and urged that such support be continued in the future.

170. The Commission endorsed the conclusions and recommendations calling for action by the Commission, which had been made by the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development at its fourth session, and which were contained in its report.

Implementation of the recommendations of the 1995 Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development and the outcome of the 1997 special session of the General Assembly

171. The Commission noted the wide spectrum of activities undertaken by ESCAP, as mentioned in document E/ESCAP/1093, as part of the comprehensive effort to address the region's environmental concerns.

172. The Commission was satisfied with the progress made in the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development at the national and regional levels. However, the financing and transfer of technologies remained a major issue in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000.

173. The Commission supported the view that the responsibility for the successful implementation of the Regional Action Programme lay mainly with governments. It recommended that further mechanisms should be established to intensify inter-agency and inter-ministerial cooperation at the national level. All members and associate members of ESCAP should mobilize their resources to address various sustainable development goals.

174. Regional and international support was needed to sustain crucial national initiatives. The Commission recommended the development of data banks on new projects and greater inter-agency cooperation to avoid duplication of effort. To facilitate their pursuit of environmentally sound development, developing countries of the region should be given access to adequate financial resources and environmentally sound technology, as well as to markets and remunerative commodity prices which would ensure their capacity to implement Agenda 21.

175. The Commission noted that poverty and meeting basic needs were a common problem and priority of the developing countries. The solution to the problem was linked to economic development, which would focus more attention on addressing environmental issues.

176. The Commission emphasized the need for the prioritization of activities to maximize benefits from programmes, considering the current scenario of diminished resources and ODA flows. It recommended that the secretariat should take into account the priorities for the implementation of the Regional Action Programme recommended by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, held in June 1997. The Commission reviewed the projects proposed for the implementation of the Regional Action Programme, assigning high priority to activities which included clean technology, capacity-building for the development and implementation of action plans, the monitoring and assessment of the environment, and the use of economic instruments. The Commission recognized that regional implementation of Agenda 21 was crucial to the achievement of sustainable development. It directed the secretariat to continue taking the lead role in assisting its members and associate members in that regard.

177. The Commission welcomed the role of ESCAP in promoting the implementation of the Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation, which covered the areas of energy and air pollution, biodiversity and capacity-building. It appreciated the progress achieved, particularly with regard to identifying projects at the Fourth Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, held at Moscow in January 1998. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Japan to host the Fifth Meeting at Kobe in February 1999.

178. The Commission emphasized that the linkages between population, the environment and sustainable development were very important. It reiterated the importance of formulating and implementing effective family planning programmes in the light of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development, Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

179. The Commission noted the request of countries for financial and technical assistance in the areas of the conservation of biodiversity, desertification and land degradation, and the protection of forests.

Environment and sustainable development of natural resources: energy and fresh water

180. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1094 regarding emerging issues in the sustainable development of energy and freshwater resources. It reiterated the need for urgent action in the energy and freshwater sectors, as called for by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session.

181. The Commission took note of recent achievements and trends in energy sector development. It emphasized that access to adequate, secure and affordable energy remained a prerequisite for sustainable development. It reviewed the potential for achieving greater efficiency in both supply and demand, and highlighted the advantages of the increased use of renewable sources of energy, noting that the development and expansion of energy supply to meet the growing needs of developing economies remained a priority.

182. With reference to sustainable energy development, the Commission noted various national initiatives relating to supply, such as more environmentally benign coal utilization; switching to less polluting fuels; increased utilization of hydropower, solar and wind energy; and expanded application of environmental impact assessment for new energy infrastructure projects. The Commission called on the secretariat to make efforts, in collaboration with ADB and other international financial institutions, to undertake feasibility studies of possible hydropower project sites in interested countries of the region. It also noted the achievements and experience of several countries in demand-side management and national energy conservation programmes, and expressed appreciation of their offer to share that experience with other countries. Greater facilitation of the transfer of clean energy technologies, continued capacity-building and the organization of training programmes were essential for sustainable development, and were areas in which there was scope for further regional cooperation.

183. The Commission endorsed the fundamental objective of achieving a sustainable energy future for all, as set out in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session. The Commission recommended that governments should establish, review periodically and develop national action plans for sustainable energy development and management. It also recommended that ESCAP members and associate members should continue to share information and experience in promoting sustainable energy development and use. It encouraged the secretariat to continue to facilitate and enhance regional and subregional cooperation in that area. The Commission took note of the secretariat's proposal to provide a regional forum at the expert level for the preparation of inputs to the global consultation process on sustainable energy development, leading to the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

184. With regard to water resources, there was a strong relationship between the environment and the sustainable management of water resources, considering the importance of the hydrological cycle in ecosystem protection. The Commission therefore emphasized the importance of the development of a strategic approach to freshwater management in order to establish goals and help maintain continuity and consistency in the related policies and actions. Such a strategic approach was considered to be needed urgently in view of the high rates of population increase and economic growth during the past decades, and the complexity of the economic policy liberalization in most of the developing countries of the ESCAP region.

185. The Commission noted with interest recent developments in its member countries in various aspects of water resources management, including assessment, development, and protection of water resources and the establishment of new institutional frameworks and water policies. It took note with concern of the increasing severity of issues faced by the countries in freshwater resource management, particularly with regard to water supply and sanitation, water pollution control, flood control and management, the lack of financial resources, and limitations in technical capacity in integrated water resources development and management.

186. The integration of water management policies into the national process of economic and social development and the protection of the environment would continue to be a major challenge for most of the developing countries in the region. Significant efforts would still be required for the developing countries to achieve the goals proposed in Agenda 21. Progress in achieving those goals would depend on commitment and the resources available in the countries, as well as assistance from the international community.

187. One delegation, referring to the issue of transboundary water resources and international watercourses, stated that the issue was being handled by United Nations Headquarters, and that no agreement had yet been reached. It expressed reservations, stating that ESCAP should not use its limited resources for an issue on which there had been no consensus. Another delegation was of the opinion that the issue of transboundary water management, including issues covering the integration of the environment and development as well as security, should be based on bilateral and multilateral or regional discussions leading to consensus among the countries directly involved. It had been the country's consistent view that all countries should be free to arrive at agreements on water resources with co-riparian States without interference from third parties.

188. The secretariat informed the Commission of its participation in the ongoing efforts to prepare for the sixth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, by providing input on ESCAP activities and future directions relating to water resources for the Secretary-General's report to that session. The secretariat also stated that cooperation and collaboration would continue with other United Nations and international agencies concerned with water resources, in order to avoid duplication of work.

Socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas

189. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1095, E/ESCAP/1096, E/ESCAP/1097 and E/ESCAP/1098 and Corr.1, relating to socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas, and endorsed the recommendations contained in those documents.

Current policy issues on rural poverty alleviation

190. In considering document E/ESCAP/1095, the Commission strongly expressed concern that, despite the continuing efforts at poverty alleviation and sustainable development, the majority of the world's poor were still found in the Asian and Pacific region and the majority of them were living in rural areas. While economic growth was a necessary condition for poverty alleviation, only a comprehensive concept of sustainable development could address the root causes of poverty. The Commission therefore recommended that direct programmes and policies targeted at the rural poor should be continued and strengthened.

191. Several delegations referred to the current economic crisis in the region and noted that even those countries that had been more successful in their struggle against poverty were now threatened by the crisis. The rural poor would be especially vulnerable if appropriate policies and programmes were not instituted immediately.

192. The Commission reiterated the view that the provision of rural infrastructure could provide employment opportunities and make a significant contribution to poverty alleviation by integrating the rural poor into the mainstream of development. Increased habitat-related infrastructure providing access to markets, health services and education through the construction of rural roads, bridges and inland waterway facilities would decrease village isolation and directly improve the quality of life in rural areas. The expansion of irrigation channels and rural electrification would also be valuable.

193. The Commission acknowledged the important role played by civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, in rural poverty alleviation. It recognized that further cooperation with those organizations would be useful in expediting poverty alleviation.

194. The Commission stressed the central role of population in efforts to alleviate poverty in both rural and urban areas. It observed that many countries in the region had reoriented population and development strategies to emphasize community participation, decentralization, and quality, client-centred services. It noted that low resource availability and the level of external support were constraints on the full implementation of population programmes. It also noted that ESCAP and UNFPA had, in March 1998, organized a high-level meeting to review the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development. The Commission adopted resolution 54/4 on the mobilization of human and financial resources for further implementation of actions to achieve the population and development goals of the ESCAP region.

195. The Commission acknowledged the progress made and the programmes initiated by several countries in the recent past for rural poverty alleviation. Measures implemented included the improvement of poor people's access to credit, improvement of infrastructure and market access. Development of linkages between rich and poor areas, and between the private and public sectors, and integration with government programmes were also considered vital elements in a successful strategy. The Commission noted the success of integrated rural development programmes as a strategy for rural poverty alleviation.

196. The Commission emphasized the growing importance of the introduction of science and technology, and industrialization, for poverty alleviation in rural areas. In that process, a greater partnership among the public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations and local communities, as well as improved access of small and medium-sized industries and micro-enterprises to soft loans, was required. In

that regard, the Commission requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to analyse and disseminate information on the experience of countries of the region and to promote technology flows for facilitating poverty alleviation in rural areas.

197. Good governance at the national level, including community-level participation in development planning and implementation, often requiring substantial institutional reforms, was a prerequisite for a successful rural poverty alleviation policy. Increasing attention should be given to the development of social safety net programmes in the areas of health, education and unemployment benefits.

198. Among the emerging international policy needs were global commitment and partnership. While governments were making increased efforts in the reduction of poverty, for example, through the allocation of additional funds to such programmes, the international community, especially the developed countries, was invited to increase ODA. The developed countries were also called upon to reduce the debt burden of the countries most affected by poverty. One delegation cited its difficulty in adhering to prescribed levels of ODA.

199. The Commission recommended that the secretariat should continue to act as a prime mover in regional cooperation and as a source of concrete assistance and guidance in rural poverty alleviation, particularly in the development of multidisciplinary strategies for national and regional action programmes. It supported the activities of the secretariat in the area of rural poverty alleviation, including capacity-building for vulnerable groups and strengthening of the income-generating activities of rural women.

200. The Commission recommended that the secretariat should undertake studies on the impact of the recent financial crisis on absolute poverty and social development in the affected countries.

201. It called upon the secretariat to review regularly national experience in rural poverty alleviation, and to facilitate exchange of experience among ESCAP member countries regarding poverty alleviation through decentralization. It also recommended that technical cooperation among the countries in the region should be expanded.

202. It felt that there was a lack of practical policy guidelines and recommended that the secretariat should expand such guidelines for sustainable economic growth, human resources development, public participation, institutional reform and regional and international cooperation.

203. The Commission urged that more resources be made available to the secretariat to carry out important activities in rural poverty alleviation in the developing countries of the region. It also recommended that the secretariat should give greater attention to evaluating the impact of its activities in that field.

204. The Commission acknowledged the importance of the International Vaccine Institute in the elimination in the Asian and Pacific region of infectious diseases, which took the lives of millions of children every year. In that regard, it encouraged the countries in the region to render support to the activities of the Institute.

Report of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development

205. The Commission endorsed the report of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development, held at Manila from 5 to 11 November 1997, as contained in document E/ESCAP/1096. It noted the progress made and the policy constraints faced by members and associate members and various development partners in their implementation of the Manila Declaration on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, adopted by the Commission in its resolution 51/4 of 1 May 1995.

206. The Commission identified various emerging socio-economic issues, such as those relating to the growing incidence of urban poverty, social violence, including juvenile crimes, the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV, and social unrest in the light of the changing social and economic challenges facing the region. To reinvigorate the progress made towards achieving national and regional social development goals and targets, the Commission endorsed the Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region adopted at the Ministerial Conference. The Declaration contained a set of recommendations for national action on planning and target-setting, mobilizing enablers, capacity-building through human resources development, resource mobilization, and monitoring and evaluation. Those could serve as important benchmarks for national efforts, as well as a basis for synergetic cooperation among members and associate members to strengthen the gains made as well as to deal with constraints.

207. The Commission took note of various national policies and programmes and experiences relating to the reduction of poverty, the generation of productive employment and social integration. It requested the secretariat to promote exchange of experience through dissemination of information on special measures and better targeting of programmes for the rural and urban poor, as well as other disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups, including persons with disabilities, youth, older persons, women and minority groups. It emphasized that the full participation and integration of those groups in society was an imperative for social development, but also recognized that the attainment of participation and integration posed a major challenge in

view of the numerous constraints, including attitudinal barriers. The Commission adopted resolution 54/5 on the International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages, and resolution 54/6 on strengthening the role of the family in social development.

208. While acknowledging the special responsibility of governments to promote equitable social development that could benefit vulnerable social groups, the Commission highlighted the importance of galvanizing the efforts and resources of civil society and promoting the closer cooperation of governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to ensure more effective outcomes.

209. The Commission requested the continued support of the international community in attaining the goals and targets contained in the Manila Declaration on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region. It emphasized the importance of a supportive external international environment, particularly in opening up markets and increasing ODA for sustainable social development. Such support was critical in view of the social development repercussions of the international economic volatility and financial crisis that had severely affected the development prospects of some parts of the region.

210. The Commission requested the secretariat to strengthen its role as the catalyst and prime mover in promoting regional cooperation in social development in view of the multidisciplinary expertise in the secretariat and its extensive record of providing technical assistance in social development. It called on its members and associate members, as well as the United Nations system, to mobilize the assistance of donors to support strategic social development programmes, including those focusing on the provision of social safety nets and promoting the role of the family in social development. It was further proposed that ESCAP should explore the possibility of setting up a regional fund for social development and that it should participate in and contribute to the conference on the Oslo 20/20 initiative for social development being organized in Hanoi in October 1998.

211. The Commission requested the secretariat to strengthen its technical assistance in national capacity-building to improve national policy formulation and promote implementation of national and regional programmes of action for poverty alleviation and social integration. It further requested support for training activities in such areas as the upgrading of skills of social development personnel, the provision of advisory services on poverty alleviation and the promotion of the social integration of marginalized groups in society. Such activities would facilitate the national, subregional and regional implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region.

Progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions

212. The Commission noted with satisfaction the activities undertaken by members and associate members and by the secretariat in pursuance of Commission resolutions and decisions relating to socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas. It requested that in future reports on the implementation of resolutions, greater attention should be given to the impact of those actions on poverty alleviation in countries in the region.

Resolution 48/3 of 23 April 1992 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002

213. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress made by the secretariat in promoting the implementation of resolution 48/3. In that regard, some governments informed the Commission of the support which they had extended to the secretariat. The close collaboration of the Government of India with the secretariat included funding support for ESCAP documentation, pilot project implementation and technical assistance concerning assistive devices. The Government of the Republic of Korea had provided funding support to host the Meeting of Senior Officials to Mark the Mid-point of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, held at Seoul in September 1997. The Commission adopted resolution 54/1 on strengthening regional support for persons with disabilities into the twenty-first century.

214. The Commission endorsed the Seoul Proposals for the Second Half of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons. In welcoming the inclusion of disability statistics in the training programme of SIAP, the Commission emphasized the need for urgent assistance in addressing the current inadequacies of disability statistics. In view of the emerging needs relating to the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities, the Commission urged the secretariat to promote the sharing of experience in (a) creating barrier-free environments in the transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development sectors; (b) alleviating poverty among persons with disabilities; and (c) promoting the implementation of equalization legislation to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. The Commission decided that ESCAP should reinforce and expand its current project on the promotion of non-handicapping environments by providing technical assistance in the training of architects, engineers and town planners, as well as by generating technical information. Furthermore, it proposed that ESCAP should follow up on its publication on assistive devices, to support the introduction of import duty exemption to cover all devices required by disabled persons, as well as the local production of devices.

Resolution 50/3 of 13 April 1994 on participatory human settlements development

215. The Commission recognized the importance of dealing with urban poverty as one of the fundamental elements in any coherent effort towards poverty alleviation, and commended the secretariat on the work carried out as part of the implementation of resolution 50/3. It recommended that the information resulting from the comparative analysis of local government systems being carried out by the secretariat should be disseminated widely.

Resolution 51/4 of 1 May 1995 on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region

216. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the implementation of resolution 51/4. In particular, it noted with appreciation the convening of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development, hosted by the Government of the Philippines. It also appreciated the cooperation extended by members and associate members, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in contributing to the review of national and regional actions taken in implementation of the Agenda for Action. It reiterated the importance of enhancing regional cooperation and coordination in support of the Agenda for Action and emphasized the continuing importance of strengthening efforts among members and associate members and all concerned development partners to attain fully the regional social development goals and targets specified therein. The Commission adopted resolution 54/2 on the Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region.

Resolution 51/7 of 1 May 1995 on the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific

217. The Commission commended the work of the secretariat in implementing the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action, which had emphasized the importance of the empowerment of women as a cornerstone of sustainable development and recognized the strategic role of women as agents and beneficiaries of development and in the alleviation of poverty, in equal partnership with men.

Resolution 52/3 of 24 April 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women

218. The Commission commended the action taken by the secretariat in implementing resolution 52/3 and welcomed the convening of a high-level intergovernmental meeting in 1999 to review the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action and the regional implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the outcome of which would be channelled into the global review of the Beijing Platform in 2000.

Resolution 52/4 of 24 April 1996 on promoting human resources development among youth in Asia and the Pacific

219. The Commission noted the progress made in implementing resolution 52/4. Youth, defined by the United Nations as the age cohort of 15-24 years, constituted approximately 20 per cent of the population of the region. The Commission stressed the need to provide educational and employment opportunities for youth to enable them to contribute constructively to the development of Asian and Pacific societies. In that regard, the secretariat was implementing a series of human resources development courses for youth development personnel, focusing on skills development for productive employment for youth in the countries of the Greater Mekong subregion and South Asia. Some delegations reported that efforts had been made to promote the participation of youth in decision-making processes in their countries.

Resolution 53/2 of 30 April 1997 on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for the advancement of women

220. The Commission noted with satisfaction the work undertaken by the secretariat in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and noted the many activities which had been undertaken by members and associate members. It recognized that significant progress had been made, including the adoption and implementation of national policies and plans, and improvement in the status of women, especially in the areas of education, health, economic participation and, in some cases, in the sphere of decision-making at the local and national levels. The Commission expressed special concern that the recent economic problems in some countries of the region would have a negative impact on women and would burden them disproportionately, and urged that measures should be taken to address that problem. It requested that continuous efforts be made to mobilize funds so that a regional meeting of national machineries for the advancement of women could be convened every two years, as proposed under Commission resolution 53/2. Some delegations further suggested that a separate agenda item relating to the empowerment of women should be included in future sessions of the Commission in view of the importance of that issue.

Resolution 53/4 of 30 April 1997 on the elimination of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth in Asia and the Pacific

221. The Commission reviewed the progress achieved by the secretariat in the implementation of the above resolution to eliminate the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth in Asia and the Pacific. It noted with appreciation that, with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Government of Japan, a major project covering 12 countries of South-East and South Asia had been launched to assist in the recovery and reintegration of sexually exploited children and youth through the training of social service and health personnel. Work would also be initiated to review human resources development policies and programmes to improve access by vulnerable children and youth to relevant health and social services, education and training, and employment.

Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific

222. The Commission recommended that the Centre should continue to strengthen collaborative research and development projects, covering a broad range of issues concerning the sustainable development of upland agriculture, the effect of trade liberalization on agriculture and poverty alleviation. It urged the Centre to undertake activities under the human resources development and information services programme, including workshops and training courses for disseminating and transmitting information and methodologies for socio-economic studies and policy formulation in agriculture.

223. The Commission also urged the Centre to focus further on the enhancement of regional agriculture and rural communities in the region, in particular under the current serious economic situation and unusual climatic conditions triggered by the El Niño phenomenon.

224. It expressed special concern over the continuing unstable condition of institutional support resources, for which a substantial increase in contributions and early allocation by members and associate members were needed. It called for a further strengthening of programme resources and their timely allocation, and the provision of the services of experts by governments, donor agencies and partner institutes, preferably in the form of non-reimbursable loans, so as to ensure the continuity and effective implementation of programme activities.

225. The Commission noted the Centre's action to revise its strategic plan and to implement an impact evaluation.

226. The Commission expressed appreciation of the contributions, in cash or in kind, or both, received from the Governments of Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Special appreciation was expressed of the increase in cash contributions made in 1997 by the Governments of India, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development

227. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1100 and E/ESCAP/1101. It endorsed the report of the Committee on Transport and Communications on its third session. Noting the importance of up-to-date information on developments in the sector, the Commission requested the secretariat to resume its preparation of the review of developments in transport, communications and tourism. It noted the recommendation of the Committee that attention should be focused on particular modes and subsectors in alternate years; however, it also expressed concern that with the increasing integration of transport modes, it was important that they be considered together. The Commission requested ACPR to further consider how the problem might be adequately addressed.

Transport, communications and infrastructure development

228. The Commission reiterated the significance of resolution 51/8 of 1 May 1995 on the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, and underscored the importance of implementing activities under the programme in countries which had complementary national activities. The Commission urged countries that had not already done so to nominate national focal points and to indicate priority projects from within the Regional Action Programme for the Plan. It requested that the secretariat set in place an efficient mechanism for monitoring the progress of implementation of the Programme. In view of the current financial crisis, the Commission also requested that priority be given to activities within the New Delhi Action Plan that could play a significant role in recovery from economic difficulties.

229. The Commission stressed the important role which the private sector could play in infrastructure development. It recognized the importance of maintaining a close alliance between governments, the private sector and international and multilateral agencies. It reiterated its support for the Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance (AIDA) and expressed confidence that once a future plan and strategy for its activities were finalized, responses from the private sector would be forthcoming. The

Commission requested the secretariat to undertake a study on the implications of the financial crisis for private sector investment in infrastructure and to suggest measures to encourage renewed investment.

230. The Commission noted that the implementation of the Asian land transport infrastructure development (ALTID) project, with the active participation of 27 countries, clearly demonstrated its practical importance in facilitating international trade and tourism. It reiterated its strong support for the ALTID project as a priority within phase I (1997-2001) of the New Delhi Action Plan and endorsed the refined strategy and revised subregional groupings for the implementation of the project as reflected in document E/ESCAP/CTC(3)/2 submitted to the Committee on Transport and Communications at its third session. It welcomed Turkey as a new member of the project.

231. The Commission endorsed the plan of action for phase III of the ALTID project (1998-1999), with priority going to (a) a container transport demonstration project in the northern corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway; (b) a study on the development of the Trans-Asian Railway in the southern corridor of Asia-Europe routes; (c) a study on a road network connecting China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and the Korean peninsula; (d) corridor studies along major Intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges, including bringing the "New Silk Railway" into operation; (e) a study on the Trans-Asian Railway route in the northern Europe-Russian Federation-Central Asia-Persian Gulf corridor; and (f) promotion, development and formalization of the Asian Highway (phase I). An experimental container block train running from 16 to 25 April 1998 between Nakhodka and Brest by Russian and Belarus railways and the preparatory meeting on project (a) above held at Moscow in February 1998 had provided important inputs into the project. The issue of connectivity with Myanmar through the north-eastern region of India as part of the Trans-Asian Railway southern corridor should also be given priority. The Commission also decided that an impact assessment of the ALTID project should be undertaken at the end of phase I of the New Delhi Action Plan. One delegation suggested that the routes (i) Vladivostok-Harbin-Hailar-Chita-Irkutsk-Omsk-Moscow, with a branch Vladivostok-Khabarovsk-Chita, and (ii) Seoul-Pyongyang-Shenyang-Beijing-Urumqi-Almaty-Chimkent-Voronezh, with a branch Chimkent-Bukhara-Astrakhan-Rostov-na-Donu, should be considered in the study under (c) above.

232. The Commission noted with interest the information provided by a number of countries on (a) the formulation of Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks in the subregion of ECO; (b) developing railway links between Mashhad-Bafq and Kerman-Zahedan in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the invitation for investors' participation on a build-operate-transfer basis; (c) construction of a new railway line between Georgia and Turkey to provide a short-cut link to Central Asia and the Caucasus; (d) an ongoing ASEAN feasibility study of railway lines connecting Singapore and Kunming as a follow-up to the ESCAP study on the Trans-Asian Railway in Indo-China and the ASEAN subregion completed in 1995; (e) the formulation of an international highway network in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States based on principles of the ALTID project; (f) the implementation of the ALTID project at the national level; and (g) development of infrastructure on the Trans-Siberian Railway as part of the northern corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway.

233. The Commission requested the secretariat to study the possibility of reviving the practice of intergovernmental railway group meetings and introducing cooperative arrangements among railway research centres in ESCAP member countries. It also noted a proposal to review the possibility of developing a special programme of training for transport specialists from developing countries of the region through, *inter alia*, institutes in the Russian Federation.

234. The Commission noted the successful implementation of the UNCTAD/ESCAP pilot project in Bangladesh on a railway wagon information and control system (RAILWICS), and stressed the need for a regional seminar to share the experience. It expressed gratitude to the Government of Bangladesh for its offer to provide host facilities for such a seminar.

235. The Commission noted the progress made in the implementation of resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes, in relation to facilitation measures in the landlocked countries of Central Asia and Mongolia, and China, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Turkey, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam. It was recommended that the secretariat should give priority to organizing national workshops, advisory missions and training and involving the subregional organizations of ASEAN, ECO and SAARC more actively. The Commission recommended that national workshops should be held in countries of the ECO and SAARC subregions.

236. The Commission took note of two important ECO documents on transport and communications adopted in the course of 1997, the Ashgabat Declaration on the Development of Transport and Communication Infrastructure and Network of Transnational Pipelines in the ECO Region adopted by the Extraordinary Summit Meeting of ECO held in May 1997, and the report of the second Ministerial Meeting on Transport and Communications, held in March 1998. The Commission requested the secretariat to continue maintaining contact with the ECO secretariat and other regional and international organizations and interested countries, to evolve projects and programmes relating to the recommendations contained in those documents.

237. The Commission noted that the implementation of resolution 52/9 of 24 April 1996 on intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges was being carried out through the ALTID project, as reflected above. It indicated that increasing priority should be given to the improvement of the operational efficiency of existing Asia-Europe land and land-cum-sea bridges and the completion of missing links. The Commission also requested the secretariat to investigate the potential for the integration of other possible water transport links, including the northern sea route, in the Asia-Europe routes, as well as the role of freight forwarders in promoting their utilization. The Commission was pleased to learn that the Russian Federation was prepared to provide experts to assist the secretariat in drafting an ESCAP agreement on the Asian Highway network. The Commission noted that the International Eurasian Conference on Transport would be held at Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, on 12 and 13 May 1998, and the second international conference on the global integration of the transport sector, TRANSEURASIA-98, would be held at Almaty on 19 and 20 May 1998.

238. The Commission noted with satisfaction the close collaboration between the secretariat and the Korea Maritime Research Institute in undertaking an intraregional shipping study. It also supported the secretariat's initiative to develop harmonized formats for the presentation of maritime data on the Internet.

239. Recognizing the importance of the inland water transport sector in the ESCAP region, the Commission requested the secretariat to intensify its activities in that area further and to focus attention on the full integration of inland water transport within the overall transport system, and also to take action to facilitate the use of inland water transport for the carriage of international traffic on the major river systems in the region. The Commission noted that Viet Nam was considering hosting inland water transport training activities for countries of Indo-China at its inland water transport training establishments. The Commission was pleased to learn that China would host a policy-level seminar on the sustainable development of inland water transport in 1998 and could provide experts to assist the secretariat in the areas of maritime transport, inland water transport, waterway management and road construction. The Commission also welcomed the offer of the Netherlands to contribute to inland water transport activities.

240. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue undertaking useful work with respect to the transport of dangerous goods, including the publication of guidelines to assist member countries in upgrading and harmonizing relevant legislation and regulations. It noted the request of Viet Nam to be involved in that project. It endorsed the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Road Transport and the Protection of the Environment, held at Bangkok in May 1997.

241. The Commission was pleased to learn of the progress being made in the implementation of a pilot project in Bangkok in which an integrated approach to policy development in the field of traffic and transport would be applied to sustainable development. Owing to the importance that all countries in the region were now placing on the integration of environmental issues into the transport sector, the secretariat was requested to accord high priority to that activity. The Commission noted the request of Viet Nam to participate actively in that project and to benefit from future training activities and opportunities to share regional experience.

242. The Commission noted that ESCAP member countries were working towards upgrading skills and capacities in multimodal transport and that the secretariat was actively involved in supporting ASEAN countries in formulating a framework agreement on multimodal transport. It requested the secretariat to continue its support for ASEAN and to take initiatives to share experience in that ground-breaking work with other subregional groupings, including SAARC and ECO. In that connection, the Commission noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in developing a joint project between ECO, ESCAP, UNCTAD and the Islamic Development Bank on international transport in the ECO subregion.

243. The Commission recognized that urban transport was an area of growing concern which required the secretariat's increased attention. It endorsed ESCAP initiatives to address the needs of transport-disadvantaged people, especially those with disabilities. It recognized that universal access to public transport already built into new systems would obviate the enormous expense of retrofitting and the need to provide segregated transport for persons with disabilities. The Commission urged the secretariat to focus specially on issues related to the transport of persons with disabilities.

Tourism

244. The Commission reiterated its desire that tourism should be given high priority in the ESCAP programme. Recognizing the expanded scope of the secretariat's work on tourism, it recommended that regular Professional staff resources for tourism activities should be expanded.

245. It was pleased to note that many countries had benefited from the secretariat's activities on tourism and endorsed the decisions and recommendations of the Meeting for the Establishment of a Network of Tourism Training Institutes and Organizations in the Asian and Pacific Region, held at Tehran in September 1997. It strongly supported the establishment of the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism (APETIT), which was a significant achievement. ESCAP and other international organizations were requested to extend their full support to

ensure effective operation of the Network. The Commission urged donor countries, agencies and the private sector to extend financial support to its activities.

246. The secretariat was requested to pay particular attention to the specific needs of countries in early stages of tourism development and to place special emphasis on activities related to the facilitation of travel and the promotion of ecotourism. The Commission requested the secretariat to strengthen activities to promote tourism in the Greater Mekong subregion, particularly through improved air transport.

247. The Commission was pleased to note that ESCAP continued to maintain excellent working relationships with the World Tourism Organization, the Pacific Asia Travel Association and ADB.

248. The Commission expressed profound gratitude to the Governments of China, France, Germany, India, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and Thailand, and to UNDP, for their generous support of activities in the field of transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development. It urged donor countries, donor agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide continued financial and technical support.

Statistics

Emerging issues and developments in statistics

249. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1102, on emerging issues and developments in statistics.

250. The Commission commended the secretariat on highlighting in the document several important issues concerning statistics and public sector computerization. It agreed with the action proposed at the tenth session of the Working Group of Statistical Experts on those topics, as summarized in paragraph 48 of the document.

251. The Commission recognized that countries needed timely and relevant high-quality information to plan and implement policies and programmes designed to attain sustainable economic growth and social development. It noted that constant attention was necessary to improve statistical services, promote analyses and research, and institutionalize the collection and dissemination of the required statistics. That was particularly important in the financial and economic turmoil that many countries in the region had been experiencing, which underlined the need for sound and credible statistical data collection and dissemination systems.

252. The Commission welcomed the initiative of IMF in establishing the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS). The standards were considered desirable targets for national statistical services, on which they would have a long-term beneficial impact. The Commission also noted the fact that GDDS and SDDS were in line with the objectives of the fundamental principles of official statistics. It observed with interest that several countries had already subscribed to SDDS, while others were attempting to do so. It expressed appreciation of the efforts made and difficulties faced by those countries and urged that technical expertise and assistance should be made available to them. The Commission endorsed the need for inter-agency coordination in the provision of technical assistance on GDDS and in the adoption of statistical and data dissemination standards, and considered that national statistical agencies should be provided with additional resources to enable them to respond to SDDS/GDDS requirements, especially where adherence to the standards might otherwise distort statistical priorities. It urged ESCAP, through the Committee on Statistics, to play an active coordinating role in providing technical assistance on SDDS and GDDS and in the further development and implementation of data dissemination and similar standards.

253. The Commission underscored the importance of population and housing censuses as vital sources of statistics, especially for small areas. It emphasized the need for all member and associate member governments to give due priority to the 2000 round of censuses and to allocate adequate resources for that. It noted the rich experience in conducting population and housing censuses which existed in the region, and heard plans and preparations for future censuses in various countries. For some countries, especially the least developed and those with less developed transport facilities, census-taking remained a challenging task to organize and finance, often requiring considerable efforts to mobilize external resources. The Commission noted the projects suggested by India in the area of population censuses.

254. Many countries were aspiring to improve the quality and timely availability of census data and to develop cost-effective strategies for census operations through such approaches as improved organization, conducting experiments, the use of imaging and optical character recognition (OCR) technologies, decentralized data processing, improved training and enlisting the voluntary support of various organizations and individuals. The sharing of experience in the region was also considered important for realizing such improvements. The Commission noted with appreciation the offers made by some countries to share their experience in census planning and data analysis, as well as the activities of the secretariat under a project funded by UNFPA on the application of new technology to population data.

255. In the field of gender statistics required for development planning, the Commission noted with interest that several members and associate members had successfully developed and improved statistics on gender issues. After participating in ESCAP projects on gender issues, a number of countries had continued their work in that area by issuing and updating statistical publications on women and men and developing a sex-disaggregated database. The Commission noted the need for technical and financial assistance as well as training on gender statistics and gender sensitization, particularly in the areas of methodology and analysis. Effective methodologies for evaluating the contribution of women to the national economy, especially in the informal sector, also needed to be addressed. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue playing a coordinating role in the area of gender statistics.

256. The Commission recognized the role of the 1993 System of National Accounts as a framework for collecting and presenting the macroeconomic statistics required for planning and policy purposes. It noted with interest the activities being planned or undertaken in various countries, and the different stages of development reached in the implementation of the SNA. In that connection, it observed that some countries had already acquired theoretical knowledge about the 1993 SNA but still lacked practical experience in the compilation of national accounts statistics. The Commission urged the organization of workshops at the regional, subregional and country levels, particularly for mid-level statisticians, and heard with appreciation that host facilities would be provided by the Government of Indonesia for a subregional workshop scheduled to be held at Jakarta from 1 to 12 June 1998. The Commission expressed appreciation of the secretariat's efforts in promoting the implementation of the 1993 SNA and urged bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, including ADB and UNDP, as well as national statistical services which had already acquired considerable experience in national accounts, to provide the support needed to accelerate the development of national accounts compilation in the region.

257. The Commission noted that price statistics were considered an important area in many national statistical services and welcomed efforts being made towards improving the measurement of inflation. It noted that the results of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) could be used to provide an alternate measure of comparable real GDP from one country to another, which was particularly important in the face of exchange rate volatility among them. While a reservation was expressed about the value of the ICP and the soundness of the methodology adopted, there were also calls for donors to support the secretariat's project proposal on the ICP.

258. The Commission expressed deep concern about the predicted disruptions that the year 2000 (Y2K) problem in computers and embedded chips was likely to cause at the national, regional and global levels. Noting with concern the slow start made by many countries of the region in addressing the problem, it urged all governments to make resolution of the problem a high priority. The Commission recognized that the problem was not restricted to statistics but also affected infrastructure services, such as electricity supply and telecommunications, as well as banking and other systems. It indicated that it was the responsibility of top-level management to initiate organization-wide action to address the issue. For identification and resolution of the problem, the Commission recommended the use of multidisciplinary teams that would report periodically on progress to high-level management.

259. As an immediate measure, the Commission recommended that organizations should demand guarantees from suppliers that all new software and equipment were year 2000 compliant. It advised all organizations to make contingency plans in case of failure of their own systems or of external or foreign systems on which they were increasingly dependent. Given the urgency of the situation, the impending high work volume in fixing existing systems meant that mission-critical applications had to be given the highest priority. The Commission warned that any delays were likely to increase the modification cost and make the timely resolution of the problem very difficult, as the required skills were already in short supply.

260. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of Statistical Experts in regard to the Y2K problem. While recognizing that the problem could only be solved at the level of each organization, the Commission encouraged all members to share their experience in resolving the problem and asked the secretariat to facilitate such regional cooperation.

261. The Commission expressed appreciation of the work of the secretariat in the field of statistics, which deserved support, additional resources and due priority. The secretariat's activities had made a very useful contribution to the development of statistics in the region and, in close cooperation with the member countries themselves, had assisted significantly in strengthening national statistical capabilities. The Commission endorsed the priority areas of work of the statistics subprogramme in 1998-1999, as listed by the Committee on Statistics, and concurred with the view of the Working Group of Statistical Experts that most of those areas remained priorities for the next biennium. Priority areas identified by the Commission included the 1993 SNA, social statistics including disability statistics, services statistics, gender statistics, the informal sector, price statistics, environment statistics, poverty measurement and management issues in statistics. The Commission also noted the need for documentation and collection of information on types and degrees of disabilities applicable to the Asian and Pacific region.

262. The Commission noted with gratitude that, since the fifty-third session, the secretariat had received generous extrabudgetary assistance which had contributed enormously to the impact of its operational activities. Bilateral donors included the Governments of Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and Sweden, while China and Singapore had provided host facilities. Substantial multilateral assistance had been provided by UNFPA, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the World Bank.

Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

263. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1103 and Corr.1, containing the report on SIAP. It took note of the important activities of the Institute in 1997/98 and the range of subjects included in the curriculum of its Tokyo-based courses and under its outreach programme. It commended SIAP for consulting with national statistical offices on the restructuring of courses to meet the region's training needs better and welcomed the inclusion in the training curriculum of new topics, such as statistics on disability, gender issues, poverty and income distribution, the environment and the informal sector.

264. The Commission expressed appreciation to UNDP for its programme support to SIAP for strengthening national capability in data collection, compilation and analysis for the preparation of national human development reports.

265. Several delegations reiterated the benefits that their countries had received from SIAP training courses; some requested the Institute to consider increased participation for their countries. It was also urged to continue and expand its training programmes in sampling, data processing, and analysis and interpretation of statistics, as well as to offer new topics, such as modelling and forecasting.

266. The Commission also expressed appreciation of the initiatives taken to chart the new direction of SIAP, particularly in developing collaborative partnerships with national statistical offices and other international and regional bodies to conduct training courses. In that regard, it urged ESCAP members and associate members and international organizations to collaborate actively with the Institute. Several delegations offered to cooperate with SIAP in conducting courses in their countries.

267. The Commission commended the Institute on its efforts to achieve cost-effectiveness by relocating one Tokyo-based course to a venue where costs were lower and the support of the national authorities was also forthcoming. It recognized that with the savings from such an initiative, more courses could be conducted on new topics. Furthermore, it welcomed the inclusion of ESCAP members and associate members with similar needs in specialized country and other training courses organized by the Institute and hosted by national statistical offices to enhance cost-effectiveness and substantive impact.

268. In welcoming the offer of training expertise to assist SIAP in specialized subject areas, the Commission urged ESCAP members and associate members and international organizations to enhance their in-kind contributions, including assignment to SIAP of experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis.

269. The Commission noted the recommendations and suggestions of the Governing Board of SIAP at its third session, particularly those contained in paragraphs 16 and 18-20 of E/ESCAP/1103. It welcomed the SIAP proposal to mobilize additional funding from non-traditional sources and through other funding arrangements. Furthermore, it supported the suggestions of the Board contained in paragraphs 31-40 of the document, including those on the training of trainers, distance learning, restructuring of the six-month course on practical statistics, statistical training on a sectoral basis and in emerging areas, advanced-level seminars on contemporary issues, and involvement in collaborative arrangements with statistical agencies on recent developments in statistics in order to obtain materials for the training programmes.

270. The Commission expressed gratitude to the Government of Japan for its generous provision of the bulk of the funding support to SIAP and urged that the financial viability of the Institute be secured in order to prevent any adverse impact on its programme and activities. It noted with appreciation that the Government of Japan would continue to provide SIAP with significant support in 1998/99 both in cash and in kind.

271. The Commission expressed appreciation of the increase in cash contributions to SIAP by several ESCAP members and associate members. It also expressed thanks to UNDP and other donors for their continued programme support. In addition, it requested other ESCAP members not contributing to the Institute to do so, and those countries not meeting the minimum amounts indicated in the Commission's guidelines to increase their contributions.

272. The Commission strongly supported the SIAP programme of work for 1998/99. In expressing satisfaction with the work of SIAP as the only regional training centre in statistics, it stressed that the Institute should continue to focus its training programme on the statistical capability-building needs of the developing and especially the least developed ESCAP members and associate members.

Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its fifth session

273. The Commission had before it the report of the Special Body (E/ESCAP/1104) and heard an oral report on secretariat activities relevant to least developed and landlocked developing countries. It noted with satisfaction the relevant and substantive outcome of the fifth session of the Special Body and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in its report, specifically those on the issues of youth employment, and the possibilities for and constraints on financial sector liberalization.

274. The Commission noted that youth constituted important human resources for economic and social development and that investment in developing appropriate skills, such as those for small business and self-employment, should be encouraged so that most youths could be absorbed into the existing economic structure. With regard to financial sector liberalization, the Commission noted that careful deregulation and reform of the financial sector were required. It also recommended that non-bank and informal financial institutions in particular should be developed, as they offered feasible mechanisms for domestic resource mobilization.

275. The Commission expressed appreciation of ESCAP activities for the benefit of Pacific island countries and of the valuable role of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre in carrying out a wide range of activities, including workshops, seminars and technical and advisory services for the subregion. It urged the secretariat to continue its efforts to strengthen the Centre, particularly with regular budget resources. It called for the continuation of the sessions of the Special Body as a vehicle for encouraging the participation of Pacific island countries in the work of ESCAP in the Asian and Pacific region.

276. The Commission took note of the requests from Pacific island countries for further assistance from ESCAP in the areas of developing a subregional trade database, devising microfinance schemes, improving data collection mechanisms, addressing urban poverty issues and coping with the Y2K problem and trade and investment-related issues.

277. The Commission recognized the useful role that ECDC and TCDC could play in supporting the development efforts of least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries, especially as a means of sharing development experience, and urged the continuation of activities under that programme. The Commission expressed appreciation to the several Asian countries that had provided technical assistance to those countries under their national TCDC programmes. It noted the offers of Indonesia and Thailand to continue providing technical assistance under those modalities. The Commission also noted the offer of Japan to continue its cooperative efforts with the South Pacific Forum to support the economic self-reliance of Pacific island countries and its continued support for the Pacific Island Centre in Tokyo, which assisted in the promotion of trade, investment and tourism for those countries.

278. With regard to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted in Paris in 1990, the Commission noted its limited impact and urged the international community to take action to implement the measures called for in the Programme, particularly in the areas of aid volume, aid modalities and commercial policies. The Commission requested the secretariat to ensure that its programmes responded to the needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and to implement more activities at the country level, in order to make a visible impact on the economic situation of those countries. The secretariat was also requested to continue monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Action in the Asian and Pacific region. The Commission furthermore urged an increased allocation of budgetary and staff resources to activities for the benefit of those countries.

279. The Commission noted that, although least developed countries had liberalized their economies significantly, foreign direct investment into those countries had been limited, and their exports had continued to face supply-side constraints. The Commission noted in particular the need for assistance to least developed countries to overcome those supply-side constraints, and urged the secretariat to implement programmes in the areas of economic policy framework, external trade and investment, external finance and management of external debt.

280. As the next global conference on least developed countries was scheduled to be held in 2001, the Commission decided that the regional review of the implementation of the Programme of Action should be undertaken during the fifth session of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries in that year. Such a review would thus provide the basis for the timely preparation of a regional input to the global conference. The Commission therefore decided that the Special Body, during its fourth session, scheduled to be held in 1999, should consider two substantive issues: (a) the utilization of development assistance in least developed countries; and (b) the multi-agency integrated initiatives led by WTO for the development of exports from those countries.

Programme planning

Revision of the medium-term plan, 1998-2001

281. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1105 and Corr.1.

282. The Commission noted that the revision of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 had been formulated to conform to the revised conference structure of the Commission mandated by resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997. The revision took into account global and regional developments that had occurred since the adoption of the plan by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session in December 1996, as well as the level of resources allocated to ESCAP for the biennium 1998-1999 by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session in December 1997.

283. The Commission welcomed the revised programme structure, which would streamline the existing 10 subprogrammes to 7 subprogrammes. In the light of the reduced resources and in order to comply with the Commission's exhortation at its fifty-third session that the programme of work of ESCAP should be focused, the secretariat aimed to focus on more limited areas of work and to allocate resources to those areas to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of programmes. Under the revised programme structure, the two subprogrammes, Regional economic cooperation: trade and investment, and Regional economic cooperation: industry and technology, would be merged into one subprogramme with a view to strengthening regional economic cooperation in the promotion of trade, investment and technology linkages, and the acceleration of industrial development. Three subprogrammes relating to poverty alleviation would be restructured into two subprogrammes, one to deal with social development issues and concerns, human resources development, and women in development, with specific reference to the alleviation of poverty, and the other to address social and economic issues in the areas of population and rural and urban development that were directly related to the alleviation of poverty. In addition, certain changes to reflect a more focused approach had been introduced into the subprogramme on environment and sustainable development, as well as the subprogramme on transport and communications. The revised subprogrammes would thus comprise regional economic cooperation; development research and policy analysis; social development; population and rural and urban development; environment and natural resources development; transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development; and statistics.

284. The Commission considered that the revised programme structure would be conducive to increased efficiency in the implementation of the programme of work of ESCAP. It recognized that the subprogramme on development research and policy analysis would constitute a crucial part of the revised plan as it would be responsible for providing a broad-based perspective of regional economic and social trends with special reference to the thematic objectives of the Commission and for setting longer-term policy goals and visions on the economic and social development of the Asian and Pacific region. In view of the latest financial and economic crisis affecting the ESCAP region and prospects for reduced economic growth, the Commission emphasized the secretariat's important role in research and policy analysis on the issues particularly related to the crisis. The secretariat could analyse the opportunities and challenges, and the options available for achieving sustained economic growth, equitable income distribution and poverty alleviation in the region. The secretariat should continue to function as the main centre within the United Nations system for enhancing the understanding of the economic and social development issues of priority in the region.

285. In the field of social development, the Commission noted that the revised plan should accord priority to the strengthening of national capabilities for social policy development, human resources development and the empowerment of socially disadvantaged groups. The importance of education should be reflected in that subprogramme.

286. In the area of environment and natural resources development, the revised plan should emphasize the promotion of subregional cooperation in pursuing environmental protection, given the increasing transboundary spread of environmental degradation into geographically adjacent countries.

287. On infrastructure development, the Commission recognized that the improvement of transport infrastructure was of significant importance in accelerating economic and social development in the Asian and Pacific region. The formulation of action plans to improve the efficiency of transport through the development of the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway was encouraged.

288. The Commission stressed the fundamental importance of ESCAP assistance programmes to the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and economies in transition in meeting their priority needs and concerns. It noted with satisfaction that the work for those countries would continue to be of high priority, and that activities to assist them would be reflected in all the subprogrammes. It was gratified to note that a gender perspective would be integrated into all areas of work, in compliance with the directives of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General.

289. The Commission urged that the future work of ESCAP be further streamlined to focus on selected areas which were of priority to the majority of the members and associate members. It also emphasized the need to optimize the use of the limited resources allocated to ESCAP. In determining the priority areas of work, due

consideration should be given to the comparative advantage of ESCAP vis-à-vis other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as other intergovernmental organizations.

290. It was noted that the revised medium-term plan would serve as the framework for the programme budget for 2000-2001, and some priority areas were recommended, including infrastructure development; trade and investment; transfer of technology; space technology for sustainable development; the promotion of subregional cooperation; environmental protection; mineral resources development; and the prevention of natural disasters. The Commission requested that the 15 sectoral subprogramme account codes of ESCAP, which had been maintained after the adoption of the six thematic subprogrammes for the biennium 1994-1995, should be revised in line with the revised programme structure for the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. Such revision was considered necessary to establish clear linkages between financial statements and programme performance.

291. The Commission endorsed the revision of the medium-term plan for further consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session in December 1998 through the Economic and Social Council.

Implementation of the programme of work, 1996-1997

292. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1106 and Corr.1.

293. The Commission expressed satisfaction that the report on the review of the implementation of the programme of work for 1996-1997 highlighted the main achievements under the six subprogrammes and provided an analysis of the use of both regular budget and extrabudgetary resources for the period under review in comparison with the previous two bienniums. In spite of the high rate of vacancies throughout the subprogrammes, the level of implementation of the programme of work had been satisfactory. The close cooperation with non-governmental organizations in implementing various activities, particularly in the field of social development, was welcomed. The Commission noted with appreciation the close cooperation between the secretariat and the Government of China in implementing various activities, including the Shanghai Symposium to Commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of ESCAP, held in March 1997.

294. The Commission welcomed the secretariat's efforts to change its emphasis in the programme of work from the production of publications to the provision of group training, and encouraged the secretariat to continue that trend. High priority should be accorded to technical assistance activities, and more resources allocated to advisory services and group training to meet the needs expressed by members and associate members. The use of the ESCAP Website on the Internet, as a means for timely dissemination of information to a wider audience at less cost, should be enhanced.

295. The Commission took note of the evaluation activities undertaken by the secretariat during the period under review. The secretariat maintained regular contact with the Office of Internal Oversight Services for guidance and assistance so as to ensure that the activities of the secretariat relating to impact assessment and performance evaluation would conform with the global requirements. In-house training on self-evaluation of subprogrammes was scheduled for mid-1998; and impact assessment of extrabudgetary projects would be continued in close consultation with the concerned donors as well as the recipient countries. The Commission was pleased to be informed of the cooperation between the secretariat and the Government of Japan in undertaking impact assessments of selected projects funded from the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund.

296. As follow-up action to the training workshop on United Nations monitoring and evaluation activities convened by the secretariat and the Office of Internal Oversight Services in December 1997, the secretariat had introduced a new format for the report to the annual Commission sessions on the review of the implementation of the biennial programme of work, and had commenced work relating to the establishment of a secretariat-wide network for the programme monitoring system. In addition, work was under way for the development of a monitoring and evaluation system of the secretariat's activities in the support service areas. The mid-term review of the performance of division heads under the performance appraisal system would be held in conjunction with the biannual evaluation of implementation by the divisions of their programmes of work.

297. The Commission considered it essential that ESCAP, as a team leader of the United Nations system for promoting regional economic and social development, should continue to enhance its capacity to respond to the changing circumstances in the region, and the emerging needs of its members and associate members. The coordinating role of ESCAP in relation to other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as intergovernmental organizations, was essential to avoid unnecessary duplication of work. Qualitative impact assessments and evaluations of the work carried out by the secretariat were considered essential elements of programme planning. The Commission recommended (a) the continuation of the use of questionnaires as a means of securing the views of governments on priorities for the programme of work, and their assessment of the resource allocations of ESCAP at the programme activity level; (b) the development of a new questionnaire to measure programme effectiveness; (c) monitoring and reporting

on the level of representation at the meetings convened by the secretariat; (d) assessment of the value of training activities and advisory services; (e) the use of independent evaluation experts for objective assessment; and (f) critical assessments of ongoing activities to ensure their relevance to the changing circumstances and emerging needs in the region. The Commission welcomed the suggestion of the Executive Secretary that ACPR should be closely involved in the consideration of those recommendations and how best to implement them, with a view to utilizing the results deriving from those exercises for future programme planning.

298. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue its efforts to mobilize extrabudgetary resources to ensure the implementation of the future programme of work. It endorsed the proposed redeployment of regular budget staff resources from the programme support areas to the programme of work, and the introduction of regular reports to the legislative bodies on the results of evaluation exercises undertaken for the programmes and activities of the secretariat.

299. The Commission fully endorsed the conclusions contained in document E/ESCAP/1106 and Corr.1, and urged the secretariat to follow through on the objectives cited with concrete action.

Revision of the programme of work, 1998-1999

300. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1107 and Corr.1.

301. The Commission expressed concern that the reduced allocations of regular budget resources to ESCAP would adversely affect the implementation of the programme of work for 1998-1999, including priority activities aimed at forging regional cooperation initiatives. It noted that the number of programmed training activities for the biennium 1998-1999 indicated a decline of almost 25 per cent, compared with the previous biennium. The Commission reiterated the need for the secretariat to prioritize its work and so sharpen its focus on more limited areas of work, deploying resources to those areas to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of programme delivery. The provision of advisory services and group training, including those on clean-coal technology for energy use and traditional gold-mining management, was recommended.

302. The Commission recognized the need for greater regional cooperation and the sharing of experience in the light of the current economic crisis in the region. It welcomed the collaborative efforts of ADB, IMF and ESCAP to organize a high-level seminar on managing capital flows at Bangkok in June 1998, and to prepare a publication on the management of financial and macroeconomic instability.

303. The importance and usefulness of space technology applications for sustainable development were stressed. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of India to host the second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in 1999.

304. The Commission supported the rescheduling of the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization to a more suitable date in the future; its attention was drawn to a number of related activities rescheduled as a result of the postponement of the Conference. It re-emphasized that ministerial conferences should take place on a selective basis, to discuss worthwhile topics.

305. The Commission supported the secretariat's intention to give due consideration to the outcome of the assessment of resource allocations in its restructuring exercise, particularly the redeployment of regular budget staff resources from the programme support areas to those areas of the programme of work identified as high priority in the resource allocation questionnaire, such as statistics and tourism development.

306. One delegation reiterated its request originally made at the fifty-third session of the Commission that the secretariat should consider undertaking studies on issues such as the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and products to developing countries on fair and most favourable terms, as envisaged in multilateral environmental agreements; the strengthening of domestic financial institutional capacity in trade financing; the modelling of business processes in small and medium-sized enterprises; and techniques and strategies to make organizations knowledge-based and interfaced with EDI globally.

307. The Commission endorsed the programme changes contained in document E/ESCAP/1107 and Corr.1. The revised programme of work is given in annex I to the present report.

Calendar of meetings, April 1998-March 1999

308. The Commission endorsed the tentative calendar of meetings for the period April 1998 to March 1999 as contained in document E/ESCAP/1109.

Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

309. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1099 and E/ESCAP/1110 and Corr.1 and 2.

310. In recognizing the crucial role of TCDC for promoting national and collective self-reliance in the developing countries of the region, the Commission commended the initiative of the secretariat in implementing numerous technical cooperation activities, especially for the benefit of the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries, as well as economies in transition. The Commission was pleased to note that a total of 130 promotional TCDC-ECDC related activities had been implemented in 1997,

covering a broad spectrum of areas of special concern to countries.

311. The Commission held the view that fully functioning TCDC national focal points constituted a fundamental and essential element of successful TCDC activities. In that regard, the secretariat had organized study tours-cum-matching exercises in Port Vila in 1996 and in Beijing in 1997, to strengthen the capabilities of TCDC national focal points in selected countries in Asia and the Pacific as well as to create an efficient mechanism for the dissemination of information and match the needs and capacities among the developing countries. Missions had also been fielded by the secretariat to sensitize national focal points in selected Pacific island countries. Similar activities would be organized in 1998, especially for the benefit of the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries as well as economies in transition in the region.

312. The Commission noted that, as an important complement of efforts to promote economic growth, transfer of technology and accelerated development, viable TCDC projects should be identified in order to mobilize donor support, giving due emphasis to the needs of the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries as well as economies in transition, in the promotion of North-South cooperation.

313. The Commission observed that lack of a TCDC policy framework, inadequate resource allocations and weak TCDC national focal points constituted the main constraints for TCDC activities. Countries should, therefore, be assisted in building up the capacities and capabilities of TCDC national focal points. It welcomed the support of the UNDP Special Unit on TCDC to activities in the region, and urged that further efforts be made to augment that support so that the catalytic role of ESCAP in promoting the use of the TCDC modality in the region would be strengthened.

314. In order to use the scarce resources available for TCDC activities in an efficient manner, joint efforts among members and associate members of ESCAP should be promoted. In that regard, the Government of Indonesia had organized 13 training programmes during the fiscal year 1997/98, including one training activity held jointly with ESCAP. With support from the Government of Japan and JICA, nine training programmes had also been organized. Similar TCDC programmes were being scheduled for 1998/99 as a commitment towards enhancing TCDC activities among the developing countries of the region. The Commission was pleased to note that, subsequent to a decision by the Government of Indonesia in 1997 to earmark US$ 150,000 for promoting technical cooperation activities in the region, an agreement had been signed with the secretariat, and part of the allocation would be made available to the secretariat in 1998 for implementing technical assistance projects.

315. The Commission noted with appreciation the successful Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme, under which 30 member countries of ESCAP had benefited from the multidisciplinary short-term courses organized in 1997. It was further noted that, under a cooperation agreement signed in 1997 between the Government of Malaysia and ESCAP, similar short-term courses would be organized by the Government in 1998 for the benefit of the countries in the region on a cost-sharing basis. Other TCDC activities of the country included the provision of a resource person to a TCDC study tour in Beijing in 1997, a visit by a group of TCDC national focal points from other developing countries to Malaysia in 1997 to exchange experience in the field of aid coordination, as well as the scheduled implementation of a sensitization activity in 1998.

316. The Government of Pakistan had been operating the Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme since 1971, with an annual budget of PRs 12 million. More than 80 countries from different parts of the world, including Asia, had benefited from the Programme, which covered a variety of areas, including banking, railways, midwifery, and laboratory technician training.

317. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Governments of China, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea for their extrabudgetary support for the TCDC activities of the secretariat over the years. It welcomed the allocations made available for TCDC activities from UNDP country indicative planning figures (IPFs) in a few least developed countries, and urged that other IPFs in the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries, as well as economies in transition, should be utilized in a similar way. ESCAP efforts to promote TCDC should be further strengthened, with increased extrabudgetary resources made available by the donors, in order to realize the full benefits of TCDC in the region.

318. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the total extrabudgetary resources available to ESCAP for the implementation of its technical cooperation activities in 1997 had amounted to US$ 22.18 million, representing a decrease of about US$ 1.08 million from the US$ 23.26 million of the previous year. Of the 1997 amount, US$ 7.9 million, or 35.63 per cent, had been received from sources within the United Nations system, US$ 13.01 million, or 58.67 per cent, from bilateral donors and developing members and associate members, and US$ 1.27 million, or 5.7 per cent, from other organizations.

319. Of the US$ 13.01 million contributed by bilateral donors and developing members and associate members, US$ 10.31 million, or 79.27 per cent, had been received from eight developed donor countries, Australia, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United States of America. Japan, with its contribution of about

US$ 5.53 million in 1997, remained the largest bilateral donor to ESCAP, followed by the Netherlands, which had contributed about US$ 2.39 million. Twenty developing members and associate members had together contributed US$ 2.7 million, or 20.73 per cent. Among those, the largest donor was the Republic of Korea, which had contributed US$ 998,778 in cash, or 37.02 per cent of the cash contributions from developing countries, followed by China, which had contributed US$ 849,933 in cash, or 31.5 per cent.

320. The generous contributions of bilateral donors and developing members and associate members had enabled the secretariat to initiate the implementation of 92 technical assistance projects, with a financial outlay of US$ 8.2 million, under its programme of work. The remaining amount of US$ 4.81 million had been allotted for institutional and programme support to the three regional institutions of ESCAP, APCTT, the CGPRT Centre and SIAP, as well as the special regional project on RNAM, the Pacific Trust Fund and ESCAP/POC.

321. In addition to cash contributions, donors and developing members had provided 336 work-months of services by experts recruited on a non-reimbursable loan basis in 1997. The invaluable services of experts on non-reimbursable loan had greatly enhanced the secretariat's capability to implement its technical cooperation programme.

322. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to the suggestions of the secretariat contained in paragraphs 32, 33 and 35 of document E/ESCAP/1110. Those suggestions included at least maintaining the level of extrabudgetary contributions by all donors, both developed and developing countries; expediting the processes involved in project reviews by donors; and at least maintaining the current level of contributions and, wherever possible, increasing the minimum level of contributions towards the institutional costs of the three regional institutions and RNAM to US$ 2,000 from the least developed countries and US$ 30,000 from the other developing countries.

323. The Executive Secretary expressed deep appreciation and gratitude to all donor countries, developing members and associate members, funding agencies within the United Nations system and other organizations for their generous and invaluable extrabudgetary contributions. He sought the Commission's recommendations and decisions on suggested measures to enable the secretariat to cope with the constraints it was facing. He emphasized that enhanced contributions from donors as well as members and associate members were essential for the implementation of the large number of activities within the approved programme of work.

324. The Commission took note of the following contributions pledged for 1998.

325. *Bangladesh*. The representative of Bangladesh announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	APCTT	7 000
(b)	CGPRT Centre	1 000
(c)	SIAP	5 000
(d)	RNAM	6 000

In addition, Bangladesh would contribute US$ 20,000 to APDC.

326. *Brunei Darussalam*. The representative of Brunei Darussalam announced that his Government would contribute US$ 15,000 to SIAP. In addition, it would contribute US$ 10,000 to APDC.

327. *China*. The representative of China announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

(a)	ESCAP programme of work for China-ESCAP cooperation projects	Y 750 000
(b)	ESCAP programme of work for China-ESCAP cooperation projects (including US$ 40,000 for the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund and US$ 10,000 for the Pacific Trust Fund)	US$ 150 000
(c)	Regional institutions:	
		US$
	APCTT	20 000
	SIAP	40 000
	RNAM	10 000

In addition, China would contribute US$ 55,000 to APDC, US$ 50,000 to CCOP and US$ 12,000 to the Typhoon Committee.

328. *France*. The representative of France informed the Commission that, in addition to those in-kind contributions listed under "France" in annex III to E/ESCAP/1110, the services of two experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis had also been provided in 1997: one, on a part-time basis, was an expert on energy and environment planning, and the other an agro-economist at the CGPRT Centre in Bogor. One expert on eco-regionalism and another on agricultural development were being assigned to the Centre on a non-reimbursable loan basis. France would also continue to support the activities of ESCAP/POC, in which an expert on development planning had been working for several years. It would also continue to support the activities of ESCAP in the area of transport, particularly

rail transport. His Government would continue its support to and cooperation with ESCAP in 1998 at the same level as in 1997 through the provision of experts and the funding of seminars.

329. *India*. The representative of India announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	APCTT	100 000 (in national currency)
(b)	CGPRT Centre	10 000
(c)	SIAP	15 000
(d)	RNAM	15 000

330. *Indonesia*. The representative of Indonesia announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

(a)	APCTT	US$ 5 000
(b)	CGPRT Centre	Rp 289 718 000
(c)	SIAP	US$ 30 000

In addition, Indonesia would contribute US$ 20,000 to APDC and US$ 40,000 to CCOP.

331. *Islamic Republic of Iran*. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	ESCAP programme of work	20 000
(b)	SIAP	10 000
(c)	RNAM	12 000

332. *Japan*. During the Ministerial Segment, the representative of Japan announced that his Government would contribute US$ 4.8 million to ESCAP through the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund, SIAP and other mechanisms.

333. *Malaysia*. The representative of Malaysia announced that its intended contributions for 1998 would be likely to remain the same as those for 1997.

334. *Macau*. The representative of Macau announced that her Government would contribute US$ 17,000 to SIAP and US$ 11,000 to APDC.

335. *Mongolia*. The representative of Mongolia announced that his Government would contribute US$ 2,000 to the programme of work of ESCAP in 1998.

336. *Nepal*. The representative of Nepal announced that, despite the fact that Nepal was a least developed country, his Government intended to make the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	ESCAP programme of work	2 492
(b)	APCTT	1 000
(c)	CGPRT Centre	500
(d)	SIAP	1 000

In addition, his Government would contribute US$ 5,500 to APDC.

337. *The Netherlands*. The representative of the Netherlands announced that her Government would contribute 3.0 million guilders (approximately equivalent to US$ 1.5 million) to ESCAP in 1998.

338. *Pakistan*. The representative of Pakistan announced the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	APCTT	5 000
(b)	SIAP	15 000

In addition, Pakistan would contribute US$ 33,000 to APDC.

339. *Republic of Korea*. The representative of the Republic of Korea announced that, in addition to the continued provision of the services of eight experts to the ESCAP secretariat and one expert to the CGPRT Centre on a non-reimbursable loan basis, his Government intended to make the following contributions in 1998:

		US$
(a)	Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	400 000
(b)	APCTT	20 000
(c)	CGPRT Centre	10 000
(d)	SIAP	30 000
(e)	RNAM	20 000

In addition, his Government would contribute US$ 75,000 to APDC and US$ 47,000 to CCOP.

340. *Thailand*. The representative of Thailand announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	APCTT	15 000
(b)	CGPRT Centre	30 000
(c)	SIAP	20 000

In addition, Thailand would contribute US$ 40,000 and B 912,000 to CCOP.

341. *Viet Nam.* The representative of Viet Nam announced that his Government would maintain the level of its intended contributions in 1998 at the same level as in 1997, which was US$ 5,000 for the ESCAP programme of work and US$ 2,990 for RNAM.

342. In announcing intended contributions for 1998, several delegations emphasized that their contributions had to be scaled down owing mainly to the economic and financial crisis in their countries. However, they reaffirmed that their governments attached great importance to the technical assistance activities of ESCAP and its regional institutions and pledged to continue their support and cooperation.

343. The total pledges of contributions to ESCAP for 1998 made by 17 members and associate members amounted to approximately US$ 9.49 million. The amount comprised US$ 3.22 million in cash and an estimated US$ 1.47 million in kind, and US$ 4.8 million, the composition of which in cash and in kind was not known at that stage. Those amounts did not include contributions announced for APDC, CCOP and the Typhoon Committee.

344. The Commission noted that the total pledges did not include possible contributions from other member and donor countries which had made no announcement of intended contributions at the current session, or the value of several unquantified contributions pledged. In addition, extrabudgetary resources to be received from UNDP, UNFPA, other agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, for ESCAP-executed projects, were not reflected in the total pledges.

345. The Commission noted with appreciation the short-term advisory services rendered to its members and associate members in 1997 and the areas of advisory services that would be available in 1998 under the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation, as contained in document E/ESCAP/1099. Such advisory services had been significantly beneficial to developing recipient countries. In that connection, a number of delegations indicated their intention of availing themselves of advisory services in 1998 in the areas of trade facilitation, national accounts, development economics and strategic planning, environmental management, privatization and deregulation. It was suggested that advisory missions should be reinforced with workshops and seminars or with demonstration projects aimed at national capacity-building.

346. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to the fields of advisory services available for 1998-1999 and gave his assurance that the secretariat would do its utmost to respond in timely fashion to requests from Governments for advisory service assistance, particularly those from least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and the economies in transition. He expressed appreciation to members, associate members and donor countries for the intended contributions announced at the current session. Such pledges symbolized their commitment to and support for the goals and priorities of ESCAP. He reiterated the determination of the secretariat to make the most cost-effective use of those contributions for the benefit of the developing members and associate members, in particular, the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as the economies in transition, through the ESCAP technical cooperation programmes.

Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies

Asian and Pacific Development Centre

347. The Commission had before it the annual report of APDC for 1997, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1111).

348. The Director of the Centre reported that 1997 marked the third year of the Centre's four-year work programme, 1995-1998. In 1997, the Centre had implemented several projects in five programme areas: energy, gender, poverty alleviation, public management and regional cooperation. It had undertaken seminars, workshops and studies on important subjects under the five programmes. One particular area given urgent attention was the replication of sustainable microfinance technology and the capacity-building programme for microfinance institutions.

349. The Centre had completed the following five publications as research outputs: *Creating the Vision: Microfinancing the Poor in Asia-Pacific; Proceedings of the Bank Poor'96 Regional Workshop; Microfinance Capacity Assessment Report - Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and South Pacific; Gender Training Resources in the Asian and Pacific Region: Selected Annotated Bibliography;* and *Proceedings of the Consultative Meeting of the Asian Network on Women and International Migration.*

350. The programme fund received by APDC in 1997 amounted to US$ 603,140, a decrease of 47.6 per cent from the previous year. The annual contribution pledged in 1997 had fallen by 5.3 per cent, but the actual amount received in 1997 was 13.7 per cent less than the amount pledged. The total fund available for the year amounted to US$ 2.5 million, as against US$ 2.9 million in 1996. On the expenditure side, the total for 1997 was US$ 2.3 million, as compared with US$ 2.6 million in 1996. Overall, the 1997 operational results showed a surplus of US$ 313,220, as against US$ 102,667 in 1996. Consequently, the overall reserve fund had increased from US$ 1.3 million to US$ 1.6 million as at 31 December 1997.

351. The Director, while expressing gratitude for the support provided by member countries and other bodies,

urged member countries which had not remitted their pledges to do so. He also invited other ESCAP members, especially the island countries in the Pacific region, to join APDC. That would enable the Centre to design more projects relevant to the Pacific region, thus ensuring greater participation.

352. A number of delegations commented on the good work performed by APDC and pledged their continued support, despite the ongoing financial crisis faced by them.

Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia

353. The Commission had before it the report of CCOP, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1112).

354. The Commission was informed that, during the preceding year, CCOP had successfully carried out 27 technical activities under various collaborative projects which focused mainly on regional geoscientific data compilation, technology transfer and human resources development. Those activities were concerned with the sectors of energy and mineral resources, integrated coastal zone management and geohazard mitigation. In the energy sector, projects had been undertaken on resource classification and planning, data management and inventory systems, basic petroleum economics and gas policy for sustainable growth, advanced reservoir management and geological correlation. In the mineral sector, the main activities were related to the implementation of phase II of a project on digital compilation of geoscientific maps under the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund. In the coastal zone sector, the CCOP COASTPLAN supported by the Government of the Netherlands had carried out a number of workshops and symposia related to coastal zone management for decision makers, sustainable development and geohazards, coastal and nearshore geological/oceanographic assessment of Jakarta Bay and case studies in China, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. In the geohazard sector, a symposium-cum-workshop on geology for geohazard mitigation and management in coastal areas had been conducted with support from the Governments of Japan and the Netherlands.

355. The Commission commended the excellent work carried out by CCOP and noted with appreciation the strong commitment of its member countries and the support of cooperating countries and relevant organizations. It also noted the re-election of Mr Sahng-Yup Kim as Director of the CCOP Technical Secretariat for a second term from 1998 to 2001, and expressed appreciation of his strong leadership and dedication for promoting the advancement of geoscience programmes in the member countries and the region. The Commission also noted the continued cooperation of CCOP with ESCAP in exchanging geoscientific information and undertaking joint activities under the work programme so as to avoid duplication of effort and to use the available resources effectively.

356. The Commission expressed appreciation to Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the relevant cooperating organizations for extending assistance to the programme areas concerning energy evaluation, coastal area management and the development of mineral resources and geohazard mitigation.

Mekong River Commission

357. The Commission had before it the report of MRC, which was transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1113), and presented by the Chairman of the MRC Joint Committee for 1997/98.

358. The Commission noted with appreciation the progress achieved through the Council and Joint Committee meetings, the Donor Consultative Group meeting, and the Second Dialogue meeting with China and Myanmar, as well as the cooperative arrangements with other river commissions. The Commission was pleased to note that China had been paying close attention to the work of MRC.

359. The Commission also noted with interest the implementation of programmes and projects and the intention of MRC to formulate a basin development plan for the Mekong River basin region, which would be a comprehensive and long-term strategic plan. In 1997, there had been 48 ongoing projects, with external funding of US$ 72.98 million, out of a total of 97 programmes/projects that had been presented in the Mekong work programme for 1997. The Commission was also informed that the Mekong work programme for 1998 contained information on 80 projects and activities. There were 37 ongoing projects, of which 12 were partially funded and operational. Of the US$ 169.2 million of external funds required, US$ 78.3 million had been secured.

360. The Commission was informed that the Council and the Joint Committee intended to strengthen the capacity of MRC, and that its headquarters would soon be relocated to Phnom Penh. The Commission noted with appreciation that the Government of Thailand had been hosting the Mekong Secretariat for decades. It also noted the generous support provided by the member countries of MRC, UNDP, donor countries and other funding agencies since the establishment of the Mekong Committee under the auspices of ESCAP (formerly ECAFE) in 1957. The Commission, however, noted

with concern the decreasing trend in the assistance from the donors and urged UNDP and other international agencies and donor countries to provide increasing support to MRC. The Commission noted the substantive support being provided by the ESCAP secretariat and directed it to continue such support within the framework of the ESCAP programme of work.

Typhoon Committee

361. The Commission had before it the report of the Typhoon Committee, transmitted under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1114), which was introduced by the representative of the Committee. It noted with appreciation the progress achieved by the Committee in 1997, including important work undertaken on the meteorological and hydrological components, disaster prevention and preparedness, training and research.

362. The Commission noted the support provided by the ESCAP secretariat to various activities of the Typhoon Committee, especially those related to the hydrological and disaster preparedness components of its work. It also noted the continuing valuable contribution of WMO to the work of the Committee over the years.

363. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Committee for its significant work and for the excellent cooperation among its members in taking increased disaster reduction and preparedness measures against disasters through monitoring, forecasting and dissemination of information on typhoons and hydrological hazards. It also noted that the Typhoon Committee would be assigning Asian names to the tropical cyclones in the future in order to attract more public attention.

364. The Commission took note of the valuable contributions of Japan to the work of the Committee and its continuous support, especially the forecasting services of the Regional Specialized Meteorological Center in Tokyo. It noted with appreciation the support provided to the Committee by the Philippines, in hosting the Typhoon Committee Secretariat (TCS) for nearly three decades and providing the services of a coordinator, a meteorologist and support staff. The Commission also noted with appreciation that the Republic of Korea was providing a hydrologist to TCS, and thanked Japan for having provided hydrologists in the past.

365. The Commission also noted with appreciation that China would be hosting an international training course on satellite meteorology in Nanjing from 19 September to 18 October 1998.

366. The Commission urged UNDP and other donors to provide support for the work of the Typhoon Committee and directed the ESCAP secretariat to continue to provide substantive support to the Committee within the framework of its own programme of work.

Panel on Tropical Cyclones

367. The Commission had before it the report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones, transmitted under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1115), which was introduced by the representative of the Panel. It was the first session at which the Panel was reporting to the Commission, for its information, on the activities of the Panel, as had been arranged at the fifty-third session of the Commission.

368. The Commission noted with appreciation the reported progress achieved by the Panel in 1997, including important work undertaken on the meteorological and hydrological components, disaster prevention and preparedness, training and research.

369. It noted the support provided by the ESCAP secretariat to various activities of the Panel, especially those related to the hydrological and disaster preparedness components of its work. It also noted the continuing valuable contribution of WMO to the work of the Panel over the years.

370. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Panel for its significant work and for the excellent cooperation among its members in taking increased disaster reduction and preparedness measures against disasters through monitoring, forecasting and dissemination of information on tropical cyclones and hydrological hazards.

371. The Commission took note of the valuable contribution of India to the work of the Panel and its continuous support, especially the forecasting services of the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre in New Delhi. It noted with appreciation the support provided to the Panel by Thailand in hosting the Technical Support Unit (TSU) and providing a coordinator, a meteorologist, a special adviser and support staff. The Commission also noted with appreciation that Bangladesh had hosted TSU for over 10 years before its move to Bangkok.

372. The Commission urged UNDP and other donors to provide support for the work of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones and directed the ESCAP secretariat to continue to provide the Panel with substantive support within the framework of its own programme of work.

Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

373. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1116 and E/ESCAP/1116/Add.1, containing the report of ACPR, which was presented by the representative of the Russian Federation as the rapporteur.

374. During the one-year period following the fifty-third session of the Commission, ACPR had held 11 regular sessions, and 7 informal sessions of the Open-ended Informal Working Group established to assist ACPR in reorganizing and streamlining its functions in order to ensure its continued efficiency and effectiveness as an advisory body to the secretariat. The Committee had provided guidance to the secretariat in a variety of subject areas relating to the ESCAP programme of work, including the following:

(a) Preparations for and review of two ministerial conferences and two legislative committees;

(b) Preliminary assessment of the revision of the conference structure subsidiary to the Commission, as mandated by Commission resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997;

(c) Review of the proposed programme changes in the context of the revision of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001;

(d) Review of the implementation of the resolutions and major decisions of the Commission at its fifty-third session;

(e) Review of the programme of work, 1996-1997;

(f) Preparations for the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission, including the theme topic and tentative dates and venue.

375. The Open-ended Informal Working Group had addressed the modalities of holding the Commission session. As a result of considerable discussion, it had been decided that the duration of the sessions could be reduced by one day and that an informal panel discussion would enhance interaction between the delegations. The Group had also made recommendations on the overseeing and monitoring role of ACPR, and welcomed the reconstituted Publications Committee within the secretariat that would be responsible for monitoring and streamlining the publications programme.

376. The Commission recognized that ACPR was a unique and productive forum within the United Nations system and served as an important link between representatives of members and associate members and the secretariat. The Committee had played an active role in drafting the Ministerial Declaration for the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology. The Commission reiterated that an important function of ACPR was its overseeing and monitoring role and, in that regard, urged the secretariat to strengthen the constructive and cooperative relationship already established between ACPR and the secretariat, in particular with respect to the resource allocations and monitoring expenditure.

377. The Commission acknowledged that ACPR played an important role in advising the secretariat in its efforts to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of programme delivery within the wider reform being undertaken by the United Nations system.

Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission

378. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1108. It decided that its fifty-fifth session would be held at Bangkok in April 1999. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the member governments and the Chairperson, would determine the exact dates of the session and inform the members and associate members of the Commission accordingly.

379. The Commission decided that the theme topic of the fifty-fifth session would be "Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: information technology, globalization, economic security and development".

Adoption of the report of the Commission

380. The present report was adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at the 10th meeting of its fifty-fourth session on 22 April 1998.

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION

54/1. Strengthening regional support for persons with disabilities into the twenty-first century[1]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 48/3 of 23 April 1992 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, and 49/6 of 29 April 1993 on the Proclamation and Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002,

Noting the implementation efforts made in the first half of the Decade by many countries and areas in the Asian and Pacific region, including progress in the adoption of equalization legislation, as well as intercountry meetings hosted by the Governments of India, Japan, Malaysia and the Philippines on critical issues in implementation of the Agenda for Action related to assistive devices, non-handicapping environments, multisectoral collaboration and national coordination,

Welcoming the Seoul proposals adopted by the Meeting of Senior Officials to Mark the Mid-point of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea in September 1997,

Recognizing with appreciation the Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns of the Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific for pioneering collaborative inter-organizational Decade action,

Noting the need for a stronger regional impetus to support national and local endeavours in the second half of the Decade,

1. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to endorse the present resolution and to encourage intergovernmental organizations to support its implementation in order to assist in addressing equalization issues faced by the majority of the world's disabled persons, including disabled women and disabled children, who live in the Asian and Pacific region;

2. *Urges* all members and associate members:

(a) To intensify multisectoral collaborative action towards the fulfilment of the targets for the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, endorsed by the Commission at its fifty-second session in April 1996;

(b) To contribute to the ESCAP technical cooperation trust fund for the Decade to meet capacity-building needs for information and technical assistance in multisectoral collaboration among diverse sectors, in support of the fulfilment of the Decade targets;

3. *Further urges* all governments which have not yet joined as signatories to the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region to do so before the next regional meeting to review the progress of the Decade, to be held in 1999;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to strengthen secretariat assistance to members and associate members through the following action:

(a) Harnessing the multidisciplinary potential of the secretariat to enhance sensitivity to disabilities, that is, the inclusion of persons with disabilities and/or the consideration of the impact on disability-related concerns, as a performance criterion in the secretariat's overall technical assistance, on a par with other criteria, such as gender sensitivity and relevance to development needs in the countries and areas of the region;

(b) Examining resource allocations within the secretariat, with a view to undertaking the adjustments required to enhance secretariat support for disability-related action;

(c) Mobilizing resources to replenish the Decade fund continually, for documentation, exchanges and field visits, and to disseminate good practices in the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Decade, giving special attention to the enhancement of knowledge and skills among persons with disabilities and the equal participation of disabled women and girls;

(d) Generating practical guidelines for advancing equal access by disabled persons to mainstream development opportunities, by organizing and following up on two regional meetings in 1999, in close collaboration with other members of the Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns, on the following topics:

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[1] See para. 213 above.

(i) Education and technology for the specific needs of disabled children and youth;

(ii) Implementation of the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and fulfilment of the Decade targets;

(e) Exploring the means of organizing, by the end of 2002, a high-level regional meeting to consider the lessons learned from national and area efforts towards the fulfilment of the Decade targets, so as to lay a solid foundation for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in mainstream society into the twenty-first century;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission biennially on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, with emphasis on follow-up action to reinforce the impact of the above-mentioned regional meetings, and to submit recommendations to the Commission, as required, concerning continuous secretariat action to improve the opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in the development process, until 2003, when the overall endeavours of the Decade will be reviewed as a full item in the agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission, to serve as a basis for further action in the new millennium.

10th meeting
22 April 1998

54/2. Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region[2]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 51/4 of 1 May 1995 on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (hereinafter referred to as the regional Social Development Agenda), by which it decided to convene a regional ministerial conference on social development in 1997 and, thereafter, to convene further such meetings at a high political level on a biennial basis, as called for in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 50/161 of 22 December 1995, 51/202 of 17 December 1996 and 52/25 of 26 November 1997 on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, and noting in particular the decision contained therein to hold a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and to consider further actions and initiatives, and the invitation to the regional commissions to convene biennial meetings at a high political level to review the progress made in implementing the outcome of the Summit,

Noting with appreciation the convening of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development in Manila from 5 to 11 November 1997, and the full participation of members and associate members in reviewing and assessing the progress achieved towards attaining the goals and targets of the regional Social Development Agenda and considering the means of enhancing regional cooperation in support of the Agenda and in implementing the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,

Expressing deep gratitude to the Government and people of the Philippines for hosting the Ministerial Conference, and noting that they had also hosted the last two ministerial conferences on social development in 1991 and 1994,

Noting also with appreciation the participation of concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in the implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda, in particular the focal role of the Executive Secretary, the generous funding by the Asian Development Bank, and the contribution of the International Labour Organization and the non-governmental organizations to the preparatory process for the Ministerial Conference,

Acknowledging with appreciation the progress and continuing efforts made by members and associate members, with the support of the concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in taking the necessary action to address the region's critical social issues towards attaining the specific time-bound goals and targets for poverty alleviation, the generation of productive employment and the enhancement of social integration,

Stressing with concern the social challenges that remain to be addressed arising from the current economic crisis, intercountry labour mobility, demographic processes, urbanization, changing family relations, changing gender relations, changing consumption patterns, advances in technology, environmental change and HIV/AIDS,

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[2] See para. 216 above.

Reaffirming its commitment to the social development goals and targets contained in the regional Social Development Agenda, and to accord priority to measures to enhance the prospects for social development in Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century, consistent with its deliberations on the theme topic at the present session,

1. *Endorses* the findings, conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development;

2. *Also endorses* the Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (hereinafter referred to as the Manila Declaration 1997) adopted by the Conference on 11 November 1997;

3. *Urges* all members and associate members to accelerate the implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda in accordance with the decisions of the Conference and the recommendations contained in the Manila Declaration 1997, taking into account specific country conditions;

4. *Also urges* donor governments and agencies, as well as multilateral financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to support more explicitly the implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda, as well as other United Nations programmes of action and agendas related to social development concerns, in their loans, funding and general development assistance operation;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, donor governments and multilateral funding agencies, including the Asian Development Bank, as appropriate:

(a) To take immediate action to harness the multidisciplinary potential of the secretariat to ensure full support for the effective implementation of the Manila Declaration 1997;

(b) To establish a Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific subcommittee on the regional Social Development Agenda with a view to strengthening collaboration and coordination among United Nations and other regional development actors in the planning and programming for regional social development in implementation of the Manila Declaration 1997;

(c) To consider, with the United Nations Development Programme, suitable mechanisms to facilitate coordination of assistance for social development in the Asian and Pacific region, including the convening of multi-donor consultations on support to the region in the implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda;

(d) To provide technical assistance to strengthen national capabilities for multisectoral and integrated social development planning and programming aimed at:

(i) Minimizing any adverse social repercussions of development trends and programmes;

(ii) Clarifying national priority targets and improving planning, information and evaluation to enhance macroeconomic and sectoral policies and programmes for poverty alleviation, employment generation and social integration through expert group meetings, studies, seminars, information dissemination and regional advisory services;

(e) To convene in 1999 a regional meeting of senior officials to review the implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda in preparation for the global review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development by the General Assembly at its special session in 2000;

(f) To report to the Commission in 2001 on the implementation of the present resolution.

10th meeting
22 April 1998

54/3. Bangkok Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Industrial and Technological Development in the Asian and Pacific Region and the Regional Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development[3]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific (1992), the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific (1993), the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer (1994), the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century (1994), the Final Act of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, adopted by the member countries of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (1994), General Assembly resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, General Assembly resolution 51/170 of 16 December 1996 on industrial development cooperation, and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session (1997),

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[3] See para. 148 above.

Noting with satisfaction the successful organization of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology at Bangkok in February 1998, which adopted the Bangkok Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Industrial and Technological Development in the Asian and Pacific Region and the Regional Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development,

Convinced that industrial and technological development is the principal determinant for promoting the overall economic and social progress of the Asian and Pacific region,

Recognizing the need for market-based industrial policies and programmes and adequate financial, human and technical resources to promote and sustain the industrial and technological dynamism of the Asian and Pacific region,

Recognizing also the need for strengthened regional cooperation to meet the emerging challenges and to exploit the opportunities in a rapidly globalizing world economy,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, held at Bangkok from 19 to 24 February 1998, including the Bangkok Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Industrial and Technological Development in the Asian and Pacific Region, and the Regional Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development calling for their early implementation;

2. *Urges* all members, associate members, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and other sections of civil society to participate actively in the implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting;

3. *Further urges* all United Nations bodies and agencies concerned, multilateral financial institutions, donor countries and agencies to contribute technical and financial resources to promote the implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting, including the Bangkok Declaration and the Regional Action Plan;

4. *Calls upon* the members of the Subcommittee on Industry and Technology of the Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific to play an effective role in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan as coordinators of areas identified through discussion in the Subcommittee which fall within their competence;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To mobilize human, financial and technical resources for the implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, including the Bangkok Declaration and the Regional Action Plan;

(b) To undertake a comprehensive study dealing with the implications of the current economic crisis for the industrial and technological development process of the regional countries and to organize a meeting to deliberate on those issues and findings;

(c) To ensure effective coordination of the activities of all relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and other sections of civil society, in facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration and the Regional Action Plan;

(d) To include in the agenda of the session of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation to be held in 2000 a mid-term review and assessment of the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, the Bangkok Declaration and the Regional Action Plan, and to report on that review to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session.

10th meeting
22 April 1998

54/4. Mobilization of human and financial resources for further implementation of actions to achieve the population and development goals of the ESCAP region[4]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the principles and recommendations contained in the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development adopted at the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, in 1992, and in the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994,

Noting that approximately 60 per cent of the population of the world and over 65 per cent of its poorest people live in the Asian and Pacific region, and that any future strengthening of population policies and programmes in the region would have a substantial impact on global population trends, sustained socio-economic development and the well-being of the people,

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[4] See para. 194 above.

Observing that a large number of countries in the region have made great strides towards implementing the recommendations of the Bali Declaration and the Cairo Programme of Action, and that data on resource flows indicate that they have been meeting their part of the financial commitments,

Noting with concern that there is a considerable shortfall in the proportion of the resources expected to be made available by the international community for the implementation of the Bali Declaration and the Cairo Programme of Action,

Recalling its resolution 74 (XXIII) of 17 April 1967 on convening the Asian and Pacific Population Conference every ten years,

Anticipating the guidance to be provided by the General Assembly at its special session to be convened in 1999 to review progress in the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action,

1. *Endorses* the report and key future actions of the High-level Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and to Make Recommendations for Further Action;

2. *Urges* the countries in the Asian and Pacific region to continue making all possible efforts to mobilize adequate domestic resources for the provision of comprehensive health care, reproductive health, including family planning services, and other social development programmes, even though many of these countries are currently facing financial constraints;

3. *Further urges* these countries to make adequate use of the modalities of South-South cooperation with a view to ensuring optimum use of the human and financial resources already available within the region;

4. *Calls upon* the international community, including international organizations, bilateral agencies, foundations, non-governmental organizations and the rest of civil society to increase support substantially to meet the urgent and pressing needs of the Asian and Pacific region in population and development, and to provide additional resources, as a temporary measure, to the social sector, including resources for poverty alleviation in those countries which are facing a major economic crisis;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system:

(a) To support the efforts of the Fund towards ensuring the availability of resources to achieve the internationally agreed goals of both the Bali Declaration and the Cairo Programme of Action;

(b) To take appropriate steps to reorient the Asian and Pacific regional programme on population and sustainable development in accordance with the key future actions recommended by the High-level Meeting, with a view to providing assistance to developing countries and areas in the region, paying special attention to least developed countries, in response to the challenges that they face and to the need to strengthen national capacity to implement these key future actions in an effective and coordinated manner;

(c) To report on the implementation of the present resolution at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, which is planned for the year 2002.

10th meeting
22 April 1998

54/5. International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages[5]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/5 of 16 October 1992, the annex to which contains the Proclamation on Ageing, in which the General Assembly decided to observe the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons and urged the international community, *inter alia*, to promote intraregional and interregional cooperation and exchange of resources for programmes and projects on ageing, including those for lifelong healthy ageing, income generation and new forms of productive ageing,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/141 of 21 December 1995 on the International Year of Older Persons, in which the General Assembly invited the regional commissions, within the existing mandates, to bear in mind the goals of the Year when convening regional meetings in 1998 and 1999 at which to mark the Year and formulate action plans on ageing for the twenty-first century,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 49/162 of 23 December 1994 on the integration of older women in development,

Recalling Commission resolution 51/4 of 1 May 1995 endorsing the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, in which, *inter alia*, the Commission called for measures to bring the active elderly into the economic and social mainstream and to meet the basic needs of rural and urban elderly who lack social security,

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[5] See para. 207 above.

Recognizing the complexity of the issues related to the rapid ageing of populations and the serious challenge it is posing to all societies, the need to undertake lifelong preparation for old age and to have a policy framework for the protection of older people, including social security, income generation, health maintenance and continuing skill development, as well as for the promotion of the contributions that older persons can make to society,

Noting with appreciation that preparations for the International Year of Older Persons have been initiated and coordinating bodies on ageing established in various countries in the region with the objective of formulating national policies for older persons and coordinating activities in support of the Year,

Reaffirming its commitment to according priority to the fulfilment of the goals and targets contained in the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted by the World Assembly on Ageing in 1982, the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action for Social Development and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region,

1. *Urges* all members and associate members to take early and effective action to implement General Assembly resolutions concerning older persons and make preparations for the International Year of Older Persons, bearing in mind the goals and objectives of the Year;

2. *Calls upon* members and associate members which have not yet done so to set up and strengthen national mechanisms on ageing, *inter alia*, to enable them to coordinate preparations for and observance of the Year and to set specific time-bound targets on ageing and related issues, in the light of the needs and aspirations of older persons, in keeping with indigenous traditions and their milieu;

3. *Also calls upon* all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society to enhance their efforts to generate greater awareness of issues relating to ageing and older persons and to support regional and national initiatives in observance of the Year;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To provide continuing assistance to members and associate members in preparing for and commemorating the Year, including the provision of technical advice and the coordination of regional and subregional activities;

(b) To promote an integrated, intersectoral approach and ensure effective coordination of the activities of all concerned United Nations bodies and private voluntary and community-based organizations for the benefit of older persons and in support of the Year;

(c) To convene a regional meeting to formulate a plan of action on ageing for Asia and the Pacific, as called for in General Assembly resolution 50/141, and to consider the means of enhancing national and regional initiatives for older persons;

(d) To continue to facilitate the exchange of national experiences and information and to disseminate data and materials concerning older persons;

(e) To report to the Commission in 2000 on the observance of the Year and on progress in the implementation of the plan of action on ageing for Asia and the Pacific and, on the basis of consultations with members and associate members, to recommend further action and initiatives to achieve the goals and targets contained therein.

10th meeting
22 April 1998

54/6. Strengthening the role of the family in social development[6]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 47/13 of 10 April 1991 on the International Year of the Family in which it reiterated the importance of the family as the basic social unit for socio-economic development and the need for all governments to devise policies specifically in support of national development objectives regarding the family,

Acknowledging that the International Year of the Family (1994) was proclaimed by the General Assembly with the following major goals: to encourage the participation of families in attaining the fundamental human development aims of reducing poverty and providing the basic services for health, nutrition, education, shelter and employment opportunities, to formulate policies sensitive to family issues and help improve national capacity to monitor the implementation of those policies, and to encourage governmental, non-governmental and national and international organizations and agencies to assess how their decisions and actions affect families,

Recalling its resolution 51/4 of 1 May 1995, endorsing the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, which had been adopted on 16 October 1994 by the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, and in which governments were urged to help provide an environment supportive of strengthening the institution of the family and mutual respect within the family,

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[6] See para. 207 above.

Recalling also the relevant General Assembly resolutions concerning the proclamation, preparations for and observance of, as well as the follow-up to, the International Year of the Family, in particular resolution 52/81 of 12 December 1997, in which the Assembly emphasized the need for a more focused and coordinated approach towards family issues within the United Nations system and invited governments to continue their actions to build family-friendly societies, *inter alia*, by promoting the rights of individual family members, in particular gender equality and the rights of the child, urged governments to take sustained action at all levels concerning families, and invited them to develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities to deal with family issues,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 47/5 of 16 October 1992 on the Proclamation on Ageing, and the decision to observe 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons, and noting the practical strategy on ageing for the decade 1992-2001 as it relates to strengthening of the family as a system of support in the provision of care and protection for older persons,

Recalling that the family is the natural fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State, as recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, on the basis of which the widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family, particularly with regard to its establishment and while it is responsible for the care and education of dependent children, as recognized in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Referring to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, which recognized the family as the basic unit of society and acknowledged that it played a key role in social development and should be provided with an environment that assured its protection and support, and that there was an urgent need for policies that strengthened the family and contributed to its stability so that it would have a strengthened role in development,

Considering that policies and programmes specially focused on individual members of the family tend to overlook the interrelatedness of the needs of family members and the interests of the family as a whole, which could lead to the breakdown of family functioning,

Keeping in mind that familial stability is crucial to societal stability, and concerned that rapid industrialization and globalization in the twenty-first century pose grave dangers to family unity and solidarity through untrammelled national and international migration,

Also keeping in mind the Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, adopted by the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development on 11 November 1997,

1. *Invites* members and associate members to continue their activities to build family-friendly societies;

2. *Urges* members and associate members to view individuals and their needs in the context of the family in order to plan for programmes and projects in a holistic manner, as well as to strengthen multi-generational relationships;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as donor governments and multilateral funding agencies:

(a) To continue to play an active role in facilitating regional cooperation within the framework of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family, by

(i) Facilitating the exchange of experience and information among members and associate members on effective policies and strategies;

(ii) Facilitating technical assistance, with a focus on least developed, landlocked and island developing countries;

(iii) Encouraging the organization of subregional meetings and relevant research;

(b) To further promote the role of the family in regional activities supportive of the International Year of Older Persons and its follow-up, especially on matters relating to the provision of care and protection for older persons and the strengthening of multi-generational relationships;

(c) To convene, within the current biennium, a regional workshop on strengthening the role of the family in providing social protection, and to prepare and disseminate a publication on that topic;

(d) To report to the Commission, in 2000, on regional cooperation strategies to achieve a more focused and coordinated approach to the family within the United Nations system.

10th meeting
22 April 1998

Annex I

REVISED PROGRAMME OF WORK, 1998-1999

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Annex I

REVISED PROGRAMME OF WORK, 1998-1999

Subprogramme 1. Regional economic cooperation: trade and investment

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities related to trade and investment. Such activities had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 1, Regional economic cooperation. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.1, Regional economic cooperation: trade and investment, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The focus of work under this subprogramme will be on implementing the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment. The envisaged policy analyses seek to address the emerging challenges and opportunities in the region in the light of regional and global developments in order to facilitate exchange of experience and best practices through dissemination of research, and extension of technical assistance and advisory services. Emphasis will continue to be placed on issues arising from the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements and their implications for the region. There will also be special focus on promotion of regional cooperation for enhancing trade efficiency and electronic commerce, as well as promotion of exports of developing countries with particular attention to the areas of commodities, textiles and exports of small and medium-sized enterprises. In this context, special emphasis will be devoted to the needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition. More specifically, activities will aim at assisting the least developed countries in harmonizing their trade liberalization commitments with their national priorities and realizing the full potential of their exports in areas where they have comparative advantage; the Pacific island developing countries, in diversifying their trade and economic links; and the disadvantaged economies in transition, particularly of the Commonwealth of Independent States, in renewing their intra-trade relations and their economic integration into the region. The proposed activities are also aimed at enhancing institutional capacity-building and strengthening networks of institutions which support trade and investment flows. In addition, activities will be undertaken to promote private capital flows for trade-related investment including through the development of capital markets. Cooperation between countries will be encouraged to promote capital market development in the developing countries of the region, which would include the economies in transition. Activities will also address the need for strengthening regional information services for trade and investment as well as the promotion of intraregional and interregional cooperation aimed at expanding trade and information flows.

The work will be carried out by the International Trade and Economic Cooperation Division under the guidance of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

1-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

1-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

1-1-103 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

(c) Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

1-1-104 Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)

1-1-105 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

(d) **Consultative Meeting among the Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations and ESCAP:**

1-1-106 **Plenary (1998) (4 meetings)**

1-1-107 **Plenary (1999) (4 meetings)**

(e) **Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement:**

1-1-108 **Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)**

1-1-109 **Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)**

2. *Parliamentary documentation:*

(a) **Commission:**

1-1-201 **Report of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation (1999)**

1-1-202 **Report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation (1998)**

1-1-203 **Report on issues related to trade and investment (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999)**

(b) **Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:**

1-1-204 **Report on issues related to trade and investment (1999)**

1-1-205 **Report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation (1999)**

(c) **Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:**

1-1-206 **Report on issues related to trade and investment (1998, 1999)**

(d) **Consultative Meeting among the Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations and ESCAP:**

1-1-207 **Report on issues related to promotion of inter-subregional cooperation (1998, 1999)**

(e) **Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement:**

1-1-208 **Report on developments in trade and investment in the Asian and Pacific region (1998, 1999)**

3. *Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:*

1-1-301 **Ad hoc expert group on trade promotion policy for trade facilitation and electronic commerce (1998)**

1-1-302 **Ad hoc expert group on regional trade and investment information networking (1999)**

1-1-303 **Ad hoc expert group on commodity-related issues (1998)**

1-1-3041 **Ad hoc expert group on inter-subregional cooperation in trade and investment, and related reporting (1997) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]**

II. **Other substantive activities (RB/XB)**

1. *Mandated recurrent publications:*

1-2-101 **TISNET Trade and Investment Information Bulletin (12 in 1998, 12 in 1999) (RB/XB)**

1-2-102 **Directory of Trade and Investment-related Organizations of Developing Countries in Asia and the Pacific, 9th edition (1999) (RB)**

1-2-103 **Trade Review of the Bangkok Agreement (1998, 1999) (RB)**

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

1-2-301 Traders' manuals and guidebooks for Asia and the Pacific (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4. Discretionary non-recurrent publications:

1-2-401 Monograph series on studies in trade and investment (6 in 1998, 5 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-2-4021 Implications of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum for intraregional trade (1996) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

5. Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, videotapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes:

1-2-501 Homepage on Electronic Commerce Initiatives of ESCAP (ECIE) on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB)

7. Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:

1-2-702 Information material on ASPAT'98 and ASPAT'99 (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8. Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):

1-2-801 Training material on electronic commerce issues with a focus on small business enterprises, for facilitating international trade in the region (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

1-2-802 Technical information in response to requests from the public and private sectors and non-governmental organizations (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

1-2-803 Training material on the Asia-Pacific Information Exchange (1998) (RB/XB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

1-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including WTO, ACU, ADB, ARC, ASEAN, ECO, Forum Secretariat, SAARC and SPC as well as non-governmental organizations (6 in 1998, 6 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-3-002 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including UNCTAD, UNDP, FAO, UNIDO and International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, on matters related to trade and investment (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-3-003 Collaboration with regional commissions in the areas of trade and investment in developing interregional linkages and in promoting information exchange and cooperation (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

1-3-004 Technical and substantive support to the ESCAP network on trade facilitation bodies (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

1-3-005 Technical and substantive support to regional commodity arrangements (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

1-3-006 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Trade and Investment (1998, 1999) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments:

1-4-101 Advisory services on strengthening trade and investment information networking (1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-102 Advisory services for promoting investment opportunities, including through capital market development (11 in 1998, 7 in 1999) (RB)*

*** TNC activities decentralized from UNCTAD with commensurate resources.**

2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):*

1-4-201 Regional seminars/workshops/symposia/expert group meetings on challenges arising from the Uruguay Round agreements, including assistance for accession of non-WTO members (4 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-202 Regional seminars on promotion of exports of developing countries, with emphasis on least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and disadvantaged economies in transition (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-203 Regional seminar on promotion of commodity trade through the use of market-based mechanisms (1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-204 Regional workshops on strengthening trade and investment information networking: infrastructure and management (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-205 Regional/national workshops on enhancement of regional cooperation in trade facilitation and electronic commerce (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-206 Regional seminars on promotion of ECDC/TCDC and tripartite cooperation in trade and investment (1 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-207 Seminars on strengthening intra-subregional cooperation and inter-subregional linkages in trade and investment (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-208 Regional seminar on the development of stock markets (1998) (RB/XB)**

1-4-209 Regional seminars/workshops on enhancing the international competitiveness of export-oriented small and medium-sized enterprises through promotion of sustainable development policies (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-210 Interregional seminar on promotion of economic cooperation among the littoral States of the Bay of Bengal in the context of wider cooperation in the Indian Ocean basin (1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-211 Regional seminar on market access issues in the context of special trading arrangements and WTO (1998) (RB/XB)

1-4-212 Workshops on enhancing national institutional capacity and regional networks supporting trade and investment flows (2 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-213 Seminar/symposium on promotion of interregional cooperation on issues concerning the regional and global trading and investment environment (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 2. Regional economic cooperation: research and policy analysis

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities related to research and policy analysis. Such activities had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 1, Regional economic cooperation, subprogramme 2, Environment and sustainable development, and subprogramme 3, Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.2, Regional economic cooperation: research and policy analysis, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The main objectives of the subprogramme are to increase understanding of the economic and social development situation in the region and to contribute to the awareness and understanding on the part of national policy makers of the constraints on sustained economic growth, poverty alleviation and the integration of environmental concerns into macroeconomic decision- and policy-making processes. Special attention will be paid to the problems of integrating the region's disadvantaged economies, such as those in transition, into the region's economic mainstream.

**** TNC activity decentralized from UNCTAD with commensurate resources.**

Documentation and substantive services will be provided to the Commission, the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation, the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development and the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas.

Recurrent and non-recurrent publications will be prepared. Technical assistance in the areas outlined above will be formulated and implemented with the aim of translating into action the strong desires of the countries of the region to cooperate among themselves in sharing experience in practices and policies for tackling common issues.

The work will be carried out by the Development Research and Policy Analysis Division under the guidance of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation, the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development and the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

2-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

2-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

2-1-103 Plenary (1999) (2 meetings)

(c) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development:

2-1-105 Plenary (1998) (2 meetings)

(d) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

2-1-106 Plenary (1998) (2 meetings)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission:

2-1-201 Report on the current economic situation and policy issues (1998,1999)

2-1-202 Report on Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: information technology, globalization, economic security and development (1999)

(b) Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

2-1-203 Report on macroeconomic developments, issues and policies (1999)

(c) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development:

2-1-204 Report on integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making (1998)

(d) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

2-1-205 Report on economic growth, income distribution and poverty (1998)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:

2-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on development issues and policies (1998, 1999)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

2-2-101 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB)

2-2-102 Asia-Pacific Development Journal (biannual) (RB)

2-2-103 Development Papers (1998, 1999) (RB)

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

2-2-301 Integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making (2 in 1998) (RB/XB)

2-2-302 Economic growth, income distribution and poverty (1998) (RB/XB)

2-2-303 Management of financial and macroeconomic instability (1998) (RB/XB)

2-2-304 Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: information technology, globalization, economic security and development (1999) (RB)

4. Discretionary non-recurrent publications:

2-2-401 Economic governance (1999) (RB/XB)

2-2-402 Macroeconomic dimensions of enhancing collaboration and cooperation among the developing economies of the region, with special reference to the economies in transition (1999) (RB/XB)

2-2-4031 Modalities for integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making (1997) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

2-3-001 Collaboration with UNCTAD, the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the World Bank and ADB on development issues and policies (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

2-3-002 Collaboration and liaison with inter-agency committees, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the region that are working on economic development issues, strategies and policies (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

2-3-003 Collaboration and liaison with inter-agency committees, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the region that are working on integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments:

2-4-101 Advisory services on modelling and simulation of macroeconomic models, macroeconomic reforms and policy management in economies in transition (1999) (RB/XB)

2-4-102 Advisory services on integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making (1998) (RB/XB)

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):

2-4-201 Seminar on economic governance (1999) (RB/XB)

2-4-202 Workshop on macroeconomic dimensions of enhancing economic collaboration and cooperation among the economies in transition (1998) (RB/XB)

2-4-203 Seminar on integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making (1999) (RB/XB)

2-4-204 Seminar on economic growth, income distribution and poverty (1998) (RB/XB)

2-4-205 High-level seminar on managing capital flows (1998) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 3. Regional economic cooperation: industry and technology

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities related to industry and technology. Such activities had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 1, Regional economic cooperation. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.3, Regional economic cooperation: industry and technology, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The focus of work under this subprogramme will be to assist countries in the region in policy formulation for accelerated industrial and technological development. Assistance will be rendered to strengthen national capabilities in such areas as capital flows, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises, involvement of women in manufacturing, the building up of industrial and technological infrastructure, and access to new and emerging technologies. Furthermore, the enhanced participation of the private sector will be encouraged in the development of human resources, with a focus on the creation and upgrading of industrial and technological skills; domestic and foreign direct investment; and policy formulation and review. Assistance will be provided for strengthening the capacity of national institutions in actions related to technology choice, transfer, adaptation and utilization through favourable policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms. The utilization and development of environmentally sound technologies in industries will be promoted. The proposed activities are also aimed at assisting the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as the disadvantaged economies in transition, in strengthening their national capability to design appropriate policy measures and technical assistance programmes for industrial and technological development, in order to bring these countries into the mainstream of regional economic development.

The work will be carried out by the Industry and Technology Division under the guidance of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

3-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

3-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

3-1-103 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

(c) Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

3-1-104 Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)

3-1-105 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

(d) Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology:

3-1-1061 Plenary (1997) (10 meetings) [10 outputs postponed from 1996-1997]

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission:

3-1-201 Report on issues related to industry and technology (1998, 1999)

(b) Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

3-1-202 Report on issues related to industry and technology (1999)

(c) Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

3-1-203 Report on issues related to industry and technology (1998,1999)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:

3-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on industrial complementarities and tripartite cooperation (1998)

3-1-302 Ad hoc expert group on the development and utilization of science and technology indicators in developing countries of the ESCAP region (1999)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

3-2-101 Industrial and Technological Development News for Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB)

3-2-102 Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB)

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

3-2-301 New technologies on increased competitiveness of manufacturing industries for small and medium-sized enterprises (1998) (RB/XB)

3-2-302 Study on the utilization and development of selected environmentally sound technologies by small and medium-sized enterprises (1998) (RB)

3-2-303 Promoting regional cooperation in utilizing industrial complementarities through tripartite cooperation (1998) (RB/XB)

3-2-304 Issues and perspectives on opportunities and challenges in industrial development and restructuring (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

3-2-305 Cooperative measures for private sector development, privatization and the enhancement of entrepreneurial capability-building (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

3-2-306 Study on the implementation of ISO 14000 standards (1999) (RB)

3-2-3071 Industrial relocation and complementarities: prospects and challenges (1997) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

4. Discretionary non-recurrent publications:

3-2-401 Small and medium-sized industries as vehicles for sustaining international competitiveness (1998) (RB)

3-2-402 New approaches in promoting the sustained participation of women in industrial development (1998) (RB)

3-2-403 Promoting interregional and intraregional industrial investment flows (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

3-2-404 Impact of regional and global agreements on technological development and technology transfer (1999) (RB/XB)

3-2-405 Study on emerging issues in technological capability with a focus on the globalization of the world economy (1999) (RB/XB)

3-2-406 Study on strengthening the role of small and medium-sized enterprises in alleviating rural poverty (1999) (RB/XB)

3-2-407 Skills development requirements for industrial and technological competitiveness (1999) (RB)

3-2-4081 Cooperative measures for promoting interregional and intraregional flows of industrial investments and technology, including for the least developed countries and economies in transition (1997) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

3-2-4091 Regional cooperation for the development of export-oriented small and medium-sized industries (1996) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

3-2-4101 Implications of trade-related investment measures and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights on flows of technology (1996) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

3-2-4111 Legal aspects of transfer of new and clean technologies (1996) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

3-3-001 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (1998) (RB)

3-3-002 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Industry and Technology (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

3-3-003 Technical and substantive support to the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments:

3-4-101 Advisory services on policy formulation for the promotion of technology transfer and technology capability-building (2 in 1998) (RB)

3-4-102 Advisory services on enhancement of industrial and technological skills (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-103 Advisory services on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-104 Advisory services on utilizing emerging industrial complementarities (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-105 Advisory services on promotion of intraregional and interregional private capital and investment flows for industrial development (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-106 Advisory services on the development of competitive small and medium-sized enterprises (2 in 1999) (RB)

2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):*

3-4-201 Regional/subregional workshop on new technologies for the increased competitiveness of manufacturing industries for small and medium-sized enterprises (1998) (RB/XB)

3-4-202 Regional/subregional workshop on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-203 Workshop on regional cooperation for the sustained participation of women in manufacturing industries (1998) (RB/XB)

3-4-204 National workshop on promoting foreign direct industrial investment (1998) (RB/XB)

3-4-205 New approaches in promoting industrial complementarities and devising tripartite cooperation schemes (1998) (RB/XB)

3-4-206 Meeting of the network of boards of investment and chambers of commerce and industry for promoting industrial development and relocation (1998) (RB/XB)

3-4-207 Workshop on regional cooperation in private sector development and privatization in industry (1998) (RB/XB)

3-4-208 Training workshop on preparation, appraisal and evaluation of industrial investment projects for the economies in transition (1998) (RB/XB)

3-4-209 Regional cooperation for the adoption of ISO 14000 standards (1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-210 Workshop on implications of regional and global agreements for technological development and technology transfer (1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-211 Workshop on strengthening national capability in areas of technology transfer and management, consultancy services and standards, metrology and quality control (1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-212 Meeting on cooperation in the utilization of technology for the development of selected industries, particularly agro- and allied industries (1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-213 Regional/subregional workshop on strengthening the role of small and medium-sized enterprises to alleviate rural poverty in a liberalized economic environment (1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-214 Training workshop on the preparation, evaluation and appraisal of industrial projects in the least developed and landlocked countries (1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-215 Meeting of the Regional Forum for Promoting Policy Dialogue in Industrial Development and Restructuring (1999) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 4. Environment and sustainable development

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities similar to those carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 2, Environment and sustainable development. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.4, Environment and sustainable development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. The main objectives of the subprogramme are to strengthen national capabilities in achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development, focusing on the integration of environment and development policy, sustainable development and management of natural resources.

The implementation, review and monitoring of the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000 and the recommendations contained in Agenda 21, together with the outcome of the 1997 special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, will form the main activities under the programme of work on the environment. Review of implementation of relevant international conventions at the regional level, strengthening regional and subregional cooperation, and identification of emerging environmental issues will be major areas of activity. Emphasis will be placed on addressing current and emerging issues related to the environment, energy resource options, including rural energy supply, power system planning and management, and energy efficiency and conservation. Activities will include analytical and issue-oriented research studies, advisory services and group training. Activities in the mineral resources sector will focus on strengthening the formulation of policies and strategies in the sustainable development of land and mineral resources, including promotion of investment, application of geological aspects in land-use and urban planning, integrated marine policies, and assessment and development of non-living marine resources. Activities in the area of water resources will focus on integrated water resources development and management, protection of water resources, and water quality and water-related natural disaster reduction in line with the programme of action for sustainable development elaborated in Agenda 21. Activities in the area of space applications will aim at achieving an effective action-oriented regional approach for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Strategy for Regional Cooperation in Space Applications for Sustainable Development, the Action Plan on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the Regional Space Applications Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development. The emphasis will be on technology applications to meet the challenges of natural resources and environmental management, natural disaster monitoring and sustainable development planning towards the twenty-first century.

The second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific will be held in 1999 and preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 2000 and *State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific*, to be issued in 2000, will be undertaken during the biennium.

Documentation and substantive servicing will be provided for the Commission, the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development and the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. Publications will be prepared and advisory services and training activities will be organized on capacity-building.

The work will be carried out by the Environment and Natural Resources Management Division under the guidance of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

4-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

4-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development:

4-1-103 Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)

4-1-104 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

(c) Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific:

4-1-105 Plenary (1999) (12 meetings)

(d) Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development:

4-1-106 Plenary (1998) (4 meetings)

4-1-107 Plenary (1999) (4 meetings)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission:

4-1-201 Report on implementation of the recommendations of the 1995 Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development and on the outcome of the 1997 special session of the General Assembly (1998)

4-1-202 Report on preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (1999)

4-1-203 Report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development (1998, 1999)

4-1-204 Report on issues related to the environment and sustainable development of natural resources (1998, 1999)

(b) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development:

4-1-205 Report on preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (1998)

4-1-206 Report on preparations for the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (1999)

4-1-207 Reports on issues related to the environment and sustainable development of natural resources (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999)

(c) Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific:

4-1-208 Reports on emerging issues, policy framework and a new regional action plan on space technology applications for sustainable development (4 in 1999)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:

4-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on commercialization of renewable energy technologies and their technology transfer (1999)

4-1-302 Ad hoc expert group on policies and strategies in the sustainable development of land and mineral resources (1999)

4-1-303 Ad hoc expert group on integration of water resources management into economic and social development plans (1998)

4-1-304 Ad hoc high-level expert group in preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (1999)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

4-2-101 ESCAP/UNEP Asia-Pacific Environment Newsletter (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-102 ESCAP Energy News (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

4-2-103 Energy Resources Development Series (1999) (RB)

4-2-104 Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific, 1995-1996 (1998) (RB)

4-2-105 Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-2-106 Mineral Concentrations and Hydrocarbon Accumulations in the ESCAP Region (1999) (RB)

4-2-107 Mineral Resource Assessment, Development and Management Series (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-2-108 Atlas of Urban Geology Series (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-109 Water Resources Journal (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB)

4-2-110 Confluence (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

4-2-111 Water Resources Series (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-2-112 Space Technology Applications Newsletter (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB)

4-2-113 Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing and GIS Journal (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

4-2-1141 Energy Resources Development Series (1997) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

4-2-1151 Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region Series (1996, 1997) [2 outputs postponed from 1996-1997]

4-2-1161 Mineral Concentration and Hydrocarbon Accumulations in Asia and the Pacific Series (1996) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

4-2-1171 Urban and environmental geology series (1996, 1997) [2 outputs postponed from 1996-1997]

2. Discretionary recurrent publications:

4-2-2011 Environmental News Briefing (bimonthly) [2 outputs postponed from 1996-1997]

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

4-2-301 Implementation of the Regional Action Programme on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000, and the outcome of the 1997 special session of the General Assembly (1998) (RB/XB)

4-2-302 Trade and environment (1998) (RB/XB)

4-2-303 Regional review of the status of implementation of relevant international environmental conventions (1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-304 Study on environmental pollution and national and international standards (1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-305 Compendium of energy conservation legislation in the Asian and Pacific region (1998) (RB/XB)

4-2-306 Guidelines for promotion of energy efficiency for economies in transition (1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-307 Development and management of non-living resources in the coastal zones of the Asian and Pacific region (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-308 **Assessment of water resources and water demand by user sectors (1999) (RB)**

4-2-309 **Space technology and applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific: a compendium (second edition) (1999) (RB/XB)**

4-2-310 **Environment and natural resources management using remote sensing and geographic information systems (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)**

4-2-311 **Space technology applications for sustainable development (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)**

4-2-312 **Advanced earth observation satellite technology applications for environment monitoring and natural resources management (1999) (RB/XB)**

4-2-3131 **Mineral resources assessment, development and management (1997) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]**

4. *Discretionary non-recurrent publications:*

4-2-401 **Study on harmonization of various initiatives for promoting regional cooperation on space applications for sustainable development (1998) (RB/XB)**

4-2-402 **Spatial information infrastructure and information networking applications, including distance education (1998) (RB/XB)**

4-2-4031 **Regional implementation of the convention on desertification (1997) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]**

4-2-4041 **Space technology and applications capability in Asia and the Pacific: an inventory (1997) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]**

5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, videotapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes:*

4-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Energy Resources on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB)

6. *Exhibits:*

4-2-601 Exhibit for World Water Day (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-2-602 Exhibit for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Day (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-2-603 Exhibit on Space 2000 (1999) (RB/XB)

7. *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:*

4-2-701 Pamphlet for World Water Day (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-702 Pamphlet for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Day (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):*

4-2-801 Maintenance and update of the ESCAP Regional Information Service on Space Applications (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-8021 Database and modelling for environmental resource accounting, planning and assessment in the Asian and Pacific region within the framework of the ESIS and EBIS database management systems [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

III. **International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)**

4-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, ASEAN, ECO and SAARC; NGOs; and the private sector in implementing the Regional Action Programme on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000, and Agenda 21 and the outcome of the 1997 special session of the General Assembly (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-3-002 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, APDC, ASEAN, SAARC, the Mekong River Commission, CCOP, ECO, SOPAC, IOMAC, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's Subcommission for Western Pacific; NGOs, including CITYNET; and the private sector on matters related to sustainable development of natural resources and energy (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-3-003 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, the Mekong River Commission, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites; NGOs; and the private sector on matters related to space technology applications (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-3-004 Collaboration with subregional environment programmes and national research and training centres on international conventions related to desertification control, climate change, and biodiversity (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-3-005 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Inter-agency Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, in implementing Agenda 21 and the outcome of the 1997 special session of the General Assembly, and on follow-up to international conventions related to the environment (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-3-006 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy for Development, the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Secretariat for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, on matters related to sustainable development of natural resources and energy (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-3-007 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Office for Outer Space Affairs, UNDP and the Inter-agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, on matters related to space technology applications (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

4-3-008 Technical and substantive support for the Typhoon Committee (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-3-009 Technical and substantive support for the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-3-010 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-3-011 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Water (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-3-012 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (1998, 1999) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments:

4-4-101 Advisory services on implementation of the Regional Action Programme on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000 (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

4-4-102 Advisory services on strengthening capacity for environmental management (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-103 Advisory services on energy resource options, energy environment planning, power system and energy efficiency (4 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-104 Advisory services on mineral resources assessment, mineral resources economics and legislation (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-105 Advisory services on environmental geology for planning and management of land resources (1 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-106 Advisory services on water resources development and management and on water-related natural disaster reduction (2 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-107 **Advisory services on space technology development and applications for environment and sustainable development (1998) (RB/XB)**

4-4-108 **Advisory services on strengthening national capabilities for integrated applications of spatial information technology for environment and natural resources management (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)**

2. ***Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):***

4-4-201 **Meetings on review and assessment of the Regional Action Programme on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000 and preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (2 in 1999) (RB/XB)**

4-4-202 **Workshop on regional cooperation for implementation of and awareness-raising on relevant environmental conventions, including the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (1998) (RB/XB)**

4-4-203 **Regional, subregional and national meetings/workshops on capacity-building for environmental management (5 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)**

4-4-204 **Workshops on energy-environment planning, new and renewable sources of energy, power system and energy efficiency promotion (4 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)**

4-4-205 **TCDC arrangements in the area of new and renewable sources of energy technology and energy efficiency promotion (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)**

4-4-206 **Workshop on mineral resources assessment, economics and legislation (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)**

4-4-207 **Workshop on environmental management of mineral resources development (1999) (RB/XB)**

4-4-208 **Workshop on environmental geology and geology for land-use planning (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)**

4-4-209 **Workshop on development and management of non-living resources in the coastal zone of the Asian and Pacific region (1999) (RB/XB)**

4-4-210 **Workshops on water resources development and management, protection of water resources and water quality, water and sustainable development and flood loss reduction (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB/XB)**

4-4-211 **TCDC arrangements on water resources development management (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)**

4-4-212 **Training workshop on remote sensing and geographic information systems applications for land and sea resources management, including tropical ecosystem monitoring (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)**

4-4-213 **Meetings of regional working groups on various space applications sectors (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB/XB)**

4-4-214 **Seminar/symposium on space applications in implementation of the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, Regional Strategy and Action Plan, and Regional Space Applications Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)**

4-4-215 **Meetings/workshops on environmental cooperation in North-East Asia (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999)**

3. ***Fellowships:***

4-4-301 **Long-term fellowships on space technology applications (12-month duration) (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB/XB)**

4-4-302 **Medium-term fellowships on spatial informatics and applications, including remote sensing, geographic information systems and global positioning system) (3-month duration) (25 in 1999) (RB/XB)**

4. ***Field (country, regional, interregional) projects:***

4-4-401 **Pilot research/study projects on applications of advanced earth observation satellite data for environment and natural resources management (20 in 1998-1999) (RB/XB)**

Subprogramme 5. Poverty alleviation: social development

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities related to social development similar to those that had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 3, Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.5, Poverty alleviation: social development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The focus of work under this subprogramme will be to assess and respond to regional trends and challenges in social policy and human resources development, with particular attention to the planning and delivery of social service and training programmes for the poor and other marginalized social groups, including youth, women, disabled persons and older persons. Activities will emphasize strengthening the capacity of the public and non-governmental sectors to develop and implement policies and programmes to enhance the productive and self-help capability of the above-mentioned groups as means of enhancing their quality of life. In undertaking this work, attention will be devoted to fostering partnerships between governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and community and other participatory organizations. Priority will be given to activities in regional implementation of global mandates, including the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. Activities will also be in pursuance of the following major regional mandates: Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region; Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region; and Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002.

The work will be carried out by the Social Development Division under the guidance of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

5-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

5-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

5-1-103 Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)

5-1-104 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

(c) Asia-Pacific Meeting on HRD for Youth to Review the Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond:

5-1-105 Plenary and working groups (1998) (16 meetings: 8 plenary and 8 working group sessions)

(d) Senior Officials' Meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region:

5-1-106 Plenary (1999) (8 meetings)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission:

5-1-201 Report of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development (1998)

5-1-202 Report on implementation of resolution 52/4 on promoting human resources development among youth in Asia and the Pacific (1998)

5-1-203 Report on implementation of resolution 51/2 on strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific (1999)

5-1-204 Report on issues related to social development (1998, 1999)

5-1-205 Report on status of and prospects for social development: theme topic of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission (1998) (RB)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

5-1-206 Report on issues related to social development (1998, 1999)

(c) Asia-Pacific Meeting on HRD for Youth to Review the Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond:

5-1-207 Report on the regional implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (1998)

(d) Senior Officials' Meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region:

5-1-208 Reports on issues related to the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (3 in 1999)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:

5-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (1999)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

5-2-101 ESCAP Human Resources Development Newsletter (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

5-2-102 Social Development Newsletter (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

5-2-301 Regional networking among centres of excellence for HRD (1999) (RB)

5-2-302 Youth participation indicators in Asia and the Pacific (1999) (RB)

5-2-303 HRD training curriculum for social service personnel (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-304 HRD training manual for development of post-literacy programmes for women (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-305 HRD training curriculum for planning and management of literacy programmes for women (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-306 HRD training curriculum for youth participation in development (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-307 Trainers' guidelines for self-help organizations of people with disabilities (1998) (RB/XB)

5-2-308 Illustrated report on promotion of non-handicapping environments (1998) (RB/XB)

5-2-309 Guidelines for the implementation of a regional plan of action concerning older persons (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-310 Review of the status of sexually abused and exploited children and youth and their access to social, health and other HRD services (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-311 Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: status of and prospects for social development (1998) (RB)

5-2-312 The role of the family in providing social protection (1998) (RB/XB)

5-2-3131 Directory of centres of excellence for human resources development in the ESCAP region (1996) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

4. Discretionary non-recurrent publications:

5-2-401 Social aspects of international labour migration in the ESCAP region (1998) (RB/XB)

5-2-402 Community-based prevention of juvenile delinquency (1998) (RB/XB)

5-2-403 Case studies on national policies and programmes for older persons (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-405 Private sector collaboration in implementing the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-406 Approaches to the targeting of poverty alleviation programmes (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-407 Conceptual framework for a regional social development data bank (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-408 Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (1998) (RB/XB)

5-2-4091 Approaches to community-based drug demand reduction in the ESCAP region (1997) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

5-2-4101 Approaches to community-based HIV/AIDS prevention in the ESCAP region (1997) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

5-2-4111 Training manual on community-based responses to critical social issues: poverty, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS (1997) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

5. Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, videotapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes:

5-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on the Decade of Disabled Persons on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB)

5-2-502 ESCAP Social Policy Homepage on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB)

5-2-503 ESCAP HRD Homepage on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB)

5-2-505 Videotapes on the ESCAP HRD Award-winners (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-506 Videotape on barrier-free environments for people with disabilities (1998) (RB/XB)

5-2-507 Videotape on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 (1999) (RB/XB)

6. Exhibits:

5-2-601 Exhibits on the ESCAP HRD Award-winners (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-602 Exhibit on implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (1999) (RB/XB)

7. Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:

5-2-701 Brochures on the ESCAP HRD Award (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-702 Information kits and booklets on the ESCAP HRD Award-winners (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

5-2-703 Fact sheets on national HRD situations in Asia and the Pacific (25 in 1998) (RB)

5-2-704 Information materials in connection with the Senior Officials' Meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-705 Information materials to mark the International Year of Older Persons (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-706 Information kit for NGOs on the implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (1998) (RB/XB)

8. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):*

5-2-801 ESCAP database on centres of excellence for HRD (1998, 1999) (RB)

5-2-802 ESCAP database on the International Year of Older Persons (1999) (RB)

5-2-8031 Asia-Pacific Fact Sheet on Drug Demand Reduction and HIV/AIDS Prevention (4 issues) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

9. *Special events:*

5-2-901 Presentation ceremony for the ESCAP HRD Award (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

5-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, ASEAN, ECO, SAARC and SPC, and NGOs on follow-up of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-002 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ASEAN, ECO, SAARC and SPC, and NGOs in implementing the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-003 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, including the Commonwealth Youth Programme, the Asian Youth Council and the Pacific Youth Council, in implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-004 Collaboration with national centres of excellence for HRD in developing training materials for social service personnel (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-005 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations and NGOs on matters related to the Decade of Disabled Persons (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-006 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, UNICEF, UNDP, UNDCP, ILO and WHO, on follow-up of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-007 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including ILO, UNESCO and WHO, in implementing the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-008 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Youth Unit/Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO, UNESCO and WHO, in regional follow-up of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-009 Collaboration with UNESCO in promoting literacy training for women (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-010 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, UNICEF, ILO and WHO, on matters related to the Decade of Disabled Persons (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-011 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, ILO and WHO, on matters related to the International Year of Older Persons (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-012 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Disability (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

5-3-013 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on HIV/AIDS (1998, 1999) (RB)

5-3-014 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on the Regional Social Development Agenda and follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development (1998, 1999) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments:

5-4-101 Advisory services on implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region and regional follow-up of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-102 Advisory services on implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-103 Advisory services on enhancement of youth skills and promotion of youth participation in development (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

5-4-104 Advisory services on design and implementation of national youth policy frameworks (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

5-4-105 Advisory services on implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-106 Advisory services on preparations for and observance of the International Year of Older Persons (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):

5-4-201 Regional workshop on strengthening the role of the family in providing social protection (1998) (RB/XB)

5-4-202 Regional workshop on a conceptual framework for a social development data bank (1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-203 Meetings on major social issues and programmes (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-204 Meetings of the Jury for the ESCAP HRD Award (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-205 Meetings on critical HRD issues (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-206 Subregional ESCAP HRD courses for social service personnel from centres of excellence in South Asia and Indo-China (2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-207 Subregional evaluation workshop for promoting HRD for women in South Asia through post-literacy programme development (1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-208 Subregional evaluation workshops for promoting HRD for women through literacy training in the Pacific and Indo-China (2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-209 ESCAP HRD course for social work personnel dealing with sexually abused and sexually exploited youth in the Greater Mekong subregion (1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-210 National ESCAP HRD courses for social service personnel from centres of excellence (4 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-211 National ESCAP HRD courses for youth work personnel in transitional and least developed countries (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-212 Training workshops on enhancing self-help capabilities of disadvantaged groups (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-213 Regional seminars on emerging social issues related to disadvantaged groups (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-214 Regional consultation on a draft regional plan of action concerning older persons in the ESCAP region (1998) (RB/XB)

3. Fellowships:

5-4-301 ESCAP HRD Award (1998, 1999) (XB)

Subprogramme 6. Poverty alleviation: rural and urban development

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities related to rural and urban development similar to those that had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 2, Environment and sustainable development; and subprogramme 3, Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development. The legislative authority under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.6, Poverty alleviation: rural and urban development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The focus of the work under this subprogramme will be to assess and strengthen the regional issues and capabilities of grass-roots institutions in rural and urban development; and the promotion of policies and programmes on increased gender equality. Analyses of the national and regional poverty situation will aim to improve conditions of the target groups through farm and off-farm employment creation and access of the poor to land, credit and other productive assets. Activities will emphasize increasing the capacity of governmental and non-governmental organizations to develop innovative ways of rural and urban poverty alleviation, and support food security at the rural household level. It will promote proper use of agro-chemicals to achieve sustainable agricultural development as well as augment food supply. Assistance will be provided to promote policies and programmes to enable women to play an active role as both agents and beneficiaries of development. Activities will also be pursued as follow-up to the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; and the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization and the Habitat Agenda.

The work will be carried out by the Rural and Urban Development Division under the guidance of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

6-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

6-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

6-1-103 Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)

6-1-104 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

(d) Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Implementation in Asia and the Pacific of the Beijing Platform for Action:

6-1-106 Plenary and working groups (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 working groups)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission:

6-1-201 Reports on issues related to rural and urban development (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999)

6-1-202 Report on implementation of resolution 52/3 on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (1998, 1999)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

6-1-203 Report on issues related to rural and urban development (1998, 1999)

6-1-204 Report on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization and the Habitat Agenda (1999)

(d) Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Implementation in Asia and the Pacific of the Beijing Platform for Action:

6-1-206 Reports on issues related to the implementation in Asia and the Pacific of the Beijing Platform for Action (3 in 1999)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:

6-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on the review of implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1999) (RB)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

6-2-101 Newsletter on Poverty Alleviation Initiatives (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB)

6-2-102 Agro-Chemicals News in Brief (6 in 1998, 6 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-2-103 Fertilizer Trade Information Monthly Bulletin (12 in 1998) (RB/XB)

6-2-104 WINAP Newsletter (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

6-2-1051 Agro-chemicals News in Brief (6 in 1996, 6 in 1997) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

2. Discretionary recurrent publications:

6-2-201 Update of Statistical Compendium on Women in Asia and the Pacific (1999) (RB/XB)

6-2-202 Compendium of inter-agency work programmes on rural poverty alleviation, 1998-1999 (1998) (RB)

4. Discretionary non-recurrent publications:

6-2-401 Capability-building to alleviate rural poverty under economic adjustments (1998) (RB/XB)

6-2-402 Strengthening of credit institutions for rural poverty alleviation (1998) (RB/XB)

6-2-403 Country profiles on plant nutrient sector development (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-2-404 Emerging urban issues (1999) (RB)

6-2-406 Innovative approaches to urban governance (1998) (RB)

6-2-407 Monograph series on emerging issues on women in development in Asia and the Pacific (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-2-4081 Supply, marketing, distribution and use of fertilizers (2 issues in 1996, 2 issues in 1997) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

6-2-4091 Directory of sources of fertilizer-related information (1996) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

6-2-4101 Sustainable agricultural development strategies [1 output postponed from 1994-1995]

6-2-4111 Market-generated rural employment for rural poverty alleviation (1997) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

6-2-4121 Manual on rural poverty alleviation through replication of successful cases (1997) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

6-2-4131 Improving the status of women in poverty (1997) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

5. Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, videotapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes:

6-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Human Settlements on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-2-502 **ESCAP Homepage on Women in Development on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB)**

6-2-503 **ESCAP Hompage on Rural Development on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)**

7. *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:*

6-2-702 Information kits on the Beijing Platform for Action (4 in 1998) (RB/XB)

8. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):*

6-2-801 FADINAP bibliographic database (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-2-803 Numerical database on the agricultural and fertilizer sectors (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-2-804 Maintenance and updating of databases on human settlements projects and human settlements experts in the region (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-2-805 Maintenance and updating of database of non-governmental organizations on women in the ESCAP region (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

6-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, and NGOs on matters related to agriculture and rural development (1998, 1999) (RB)

6-3-002 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, including ACHR, CITYNET, IULA and TRISHNET, in implementing the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization and the Habitat Agenda (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-3-003 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ASEAN, SAARC and SPC, development banks and NGOs in implementing the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-3-004 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the ACC Subcommittee on Rural Development, on matters related to rural development (1998, 1999) (RB)

6-3-005 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in implementing the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization and the Habitat Agenda (1998, 1999) (RB)

6-3-006 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

6-3-007 Technical and substantive support to the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-3-008 Collaboration in organizing the IFA/FADINAP regional conference on plant nutrients for Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-3-009 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Urbanization (1998, 1999) (RB)

6-3-010 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on the Advancement of Women (1998, 1999) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. *Advisory services at the request of the governments:*

6-4-102 Information management advisory missions on agro-chemicals (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-103 Advisory services on fertilizer marketing and pricing policy (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-104 Advisory services on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization and the Habitat Agenda (4 in 1998 and 4 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-105 Advisory services on implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (4 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):*

6-4-202 National/regional workshops on target group-oriented policies and programmes for rural poverty alleviation, including programmes on rural women and disadvantaged economies (5 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-203 Participatory group activities and employment promotion through market-oriented projects (16 in 1998, 16 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-204 Promotion of ECDC-TCDC activities for rural poverty alleviation (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-205 Workshop on integrated pest management in rural poverty alleviation (1998) (RB/XB)

6-4-207 Workshops on policy analysis on food security, rural credit and rural institutions (7 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-208 Workshops on environmentally friendly plant nutrition concepts (3 in 1998, 8 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-209 Workshops on fertilizer marketing training (1998) (RB/XB)

6-4-210 Seminar on fertilizer policy issues (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-211 Workshops on plant nutrition surveys (2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-213 Workshop on emerging urban issues (1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-214 Workshop on innovative approaches to urban governance (1998) (RB/XB)

6-4-215 Seminar on poverty alleviation for women (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-216 Seminar on women's rights, violence against women and trafficking (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-217 Seminar on enhancing women's participation in decision-making and governance (1998) (RB/XB)

6-4-218 Training workshop on enhancement of women's information network through modern information technology (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-219 Workshop on agro-chemical information management (1998) (RB/XB)

6-4-2201 Off-farm and non-farm employment generation and its impact on rural poverty alleviation [postponed from 1996-1997] (1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-2211 Land management for equitable access to land [postponed from 1996-1997] (1998) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 7. Poverty alleviation: population and development

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities related to population similar to those that had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 3, Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.7, Poverty alleviation: population and development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The activities under this subprogramme will focus on technical cooperation and research in the areas of ageing, female migration and reproductive health. The activities also include preparation of publications, including the *Asia-Pacific Population Journal* and *ESCAP Population Data Sheet*, advisory services and training in the field of population information. Priority will be given to activities in regional implementation of both global and regional mandates, namely the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the recommendations of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development.

The work will be carried out by the Population Division under the guidance of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

7-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

7-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

7-1-103 Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)

7-1-104 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission:

7-1-201 Report of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas (1998, 1999)

7-1-202 Report on issues related to population and development (1998, 1999)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

7-1-203 Report on issues related to population and development (1998, 1999)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:

7-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on appropriate technology for accessing population information (1998)

7-1-302 Ad hoc expert group on globalization and population change (1999)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

7-2-101 Asia-Pacific Population Journal (quarterly) (RB)

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

7-2-3011 Population and environment (1996) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

4. Discretionary non-recurrent publications:

7-2-401 Family support and community services for the benefit of older persons (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

7-2-402 Strengthening performance monitoring and evaluation for reproductive health and family planning programmes (1999) (RB/XB)

7-2-403 Female migration, employment, family formation and poverty (1998) (RB/XB)

7-2-404 Globalization and population change (2 in 1999) (RB/XB))

7-2-405 Approaches to enhanced Government-NGO cooperation for poverty alleviation (1999) (RB/XB)

7-2-406 Report of the high-level meeting to review the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development (1998) (RB/XB)

7-2-407 A demographic perspective on women in development in South-East Asia (1999) (RB/XB)

7-2-408 A demographic perspective on women in development in South Asia (1999) (RB/XB)

5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, videotapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes:*

7-2-501 ESCAP Population Homepage on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB)

7. *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:*

7-2-701 Population data sheet (1998, 1999) (RB)

8. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):*

7-2-801 POPIN data bank products and services within the framework of the EBIS/Popfile and ESIS database management system (12 in 1998) (RB/XB)

7-2-802 POPIN telecommunications products and services (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB/XB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB)

7-3-001 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies on matters related to population and development (1998, 1999) (RB)

7-3-002 Collaboration with NGOs on matters related to population and development (1998, 1999) (RB)

7-3-003 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Population and Development (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

7-3-004 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation (1998, 1999) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. *Advisory services at the request of the governments:*

7-4-101 Advisory services on implementation of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

7-4-102 Advisory services on reproductive health and family planning (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

7-4-103 Advisory services on population information development (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB))

7-4-104 Advisory services on demographic analysis (1 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):*

7-4-201 Regional conference on the family and older persons (1998) (RB/XB)

7-4-202 Regional seminar on monitoring and evaluation systems for reproductive health and family planning (1998) (RB/XB)

7-4-203 Policy seminar on female migration, employment, family formation and poverty (1998) (RB/XB)

7-4-204 POPIN workshop on technology information management (1998) (RB/XB)

7-4-205 Population information technology workshop (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

7-4-206 POPIN consultative workshop (1998) (RB/XB)

7-4-207 Population information repackaging workshop (1999) (RB/XB))

7-4-208 Regional seminar on approaches to enhanced Government-NGO cooperation for poverty alleviation (1998) (RB/XB))

7-4-209 Policy seminar on the impact of globalization on population change and poverty in rural areas (1999) (RB/XB)

7-4-210 Training workshop on improving national capacity for monitoring reproductive health programmes (1998) (RB/XB)

7-4-211 Policy seminar on gender dimensions of population and development in South Asia (1999) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 8. Transport and communications

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities similar to those that had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 4, Transport and communications. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.8, Transport and communications, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The focus of the work under this subprogramme will be to implement activities under the regional action programme of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, prioritized and endorsed by the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure held in New Delhi in October 1996. These activities are aimed at improving the planning process in developing infrastructure facilities and services at all levels, as well as the efficiency of its administration, management and operation in the countries of the region. Efforts will be made to enhance private sector involvement in national infrastructure development through financing, management, operations and risk-sharing, with a view to accelerating the provision of infrastructure required to sustain the economic and social growth processes. Development of interregional and intraregional transport linkages to enhance international trade and tourism will be undertaken through the implementation of the Asian land transport infrastructure development (ALTID) project. To facilitate integrated land-cum-sea transport, activities on freight forwarding and multimodal transport will be undertaken through close cooperation with other international organizations. With a view to increasing safety and safe working practices in transport and communication operations and to reducing the adverse environmental impact of the provision of infrastructure facilities and services to acceptable levels, assistance will be provided to member countries in promoting the safe transport of passengers and goods, particularly hazardous goods, while maintaining a clean environment, and implementing environmental impact assessments in relation to infrastructure development and operation. Assistance will also be provided to developing countries in promoting more equitable spatial distribution of economic activities and easier access to social amenities with the aim of alleviating poverty in the region. Activities will also be aimed at improving policies for planning tourism development, strengthening national capabilities in the development of human resources in the tourism sector and, in particular, tourism marketing, minimizing the environmental impact of tourism, and promoting tourism investment and facilitation of travel.

The work will be carried out by the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division under the guidance of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

8-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

8-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development

8-1-103 Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)

8-1-104 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

2. *Parliamentary documentation:*

(a) Commission:

8-1-201 Report of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development (1998, 1999)

8-1-202 Report on implementation of resolution 52/9 on Intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges and the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (1998)

8-1-203 Report on implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (1999)

(b) Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development

8-1-205 Report on implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999)

8-1-206 Reports on issues related to transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. *Mandated recurrent publications:*

8-2-101 Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB)

8-2-102 ESCAP Tourism Review (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-103 ESCAP Tourism Newsletter (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

2. *Discretionary recurrent publications:*

8-2-201 Infrastructure Newsletter for Asia and the Pacific (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

3. *Mandated non-recurrent publications:*

8-2-301 Road network in North-East Asia (1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-302 Subregional Asian Highway route map (1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-303 Development of the Trans-Asian Railway (1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-304 Development of Asia-Europe rail container transport through block trains (1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-305 Review of regional/subregional agreements on land transport routes (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-306 Road safety action plan (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-307 Environmentally friendly energy for transport (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-308 Methodologies for minimizing the environmental costs of damage caused by road transport (1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-309 Guidelines on a comprehensive and integrated approach to policy development in the field of infrastructure, traffic and transport for sustainable environment, mobility and access (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-310 Integrated approach to urban transport planning (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-311 Inter-island shipping: issues and strategies (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-312 Framework for the development of shipping policies (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-313 Policy issues for expansion of sustainable tourism development (1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-314 Promotion of tourism along the Asian Highway (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-315 Guidelines on integrated tourism planning (1998) (RB/XB))

8-2-316 Evaluation of infrastructural interventions aimed at rural poverty alleviation (1998) (RB/XB)

4. Discretionary non-recurrent publications:

8-2-401 Infrastructure pricing (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-402 Role of inland waterways within an integrated transport system (1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-403 Training-of-trainers manual on participatory planning of rural infrastructure (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-404 Marketing the railway product in the Asian and Pacific region (1998) (RB/XB)

5. Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, videotapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes:

8-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-502 ESCAP Homepage on the Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-503 Development of standard Internet web page formats for maritime transport information and data (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8. Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):

8-2-801 ESCAP database on infrastructure in the Asian and Pacific region (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-802 Refining and updating of software for planning infrastructure facilities and services (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

8-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, APEC, APT, ASEAN, ECO, EU, Forum Secretariat, MRC, OSShD and SAARC in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (6 in 1998, 5 in 1999) (RB)

8-3-002 Collaboration with the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including other regional commissions, UNCTAD, ILO, ICAO, ITU, IMO and UPU in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-3-003 Collaboration with non-governmental organizations, including the Global Infrastructure Fund, IRCA, IRU and the World Development Council in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-3-004 Collaboration with the private sector, including the Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance, in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

8-3-005 Collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, MRC, PATA, TCSP and other tourism-related organizations on tourism development activities (1 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

8-3-006 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Infrastructure Development (1998, 1999) (RB)

IV. **Technical cooperation (RB/XB)**

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments:

8-4-101 Advisory services on prospects for shipping and port development (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-102 Advisory services on implementation of a comprehensive and integrated approach to policy development in the field of infrastructure, traffic and transport for sustainable environment, mobility and access (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-103 Advisory services on participatory planning of rural infrastructure (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-104 Advisory services on promotion of private sector participation in infrastructure development (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-105 Advisory services on multimodal transport, freight forwarding and facilitation of maritime traffic (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-106 Advisory services on transport of dangerous goods (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-107 Advisory services on financial economic planning of infrastructure and project investment (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-108 Advisory services on strengthening national capabilities in tourism development (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):

8-4-201 Seminars/workshops on transport infrastructure development and facilitation (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-202 Country-level workshops on road maintenance (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-203 Training workshops on implementation of a comprehensive and integrated approach to policy development in the field of infrastructure, traffic and transport for sustainable environment, mobility and access (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-204 Regional seminar on infrastructure pricing (1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-205 Seminar on networking of centres of excellence in infrastructure (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-206 Symposium on private sector involvement in infrastructure development (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-207 Subregional seminar on participatory planning of rural infrastructure (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-208 Training workshop on integration of non-motorized transport in the urban transport system (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-209 Training seminar on transport of dangerous goods (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-210 Workshop on financial economic planning and evaluation of inland waterways transport projects (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-211 Seminar on tourism planning and development (1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-212 Meetings on promotion of tourism in the Greater Mekong subregion (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-213 Regional meeting on promotion of cooperation among tourism training institutes and organizations (1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-214 Regional seminar on facilitation of travel (1998) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 9. Statistics

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities similar to those that had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 5, Statistics. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.9, Statistics, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The focus of work under this subprogramme will be to organize group training and provide advisory services in priority areas, including national accounts statistics and other economic statistics, gender statistics, population censuses and surveys, environment statistics and accounting, and management of statistical services. Those activities will be implemented in coordination with relevant global, regional and subregional statistical entities.

The growing competence of the membership in contributing to statistical capability-building will be taken into account in the modalities of regular and extrabudgetary activities. Regional-level coordination will be undertaken for the development, revision, testing and implementation of selected international statistical standards and, where necessary, their adaptation to meet the conditions and needs of the countries of the region.

Comparable socio-economic statistics will be disseminated through modern recurrent publications and off-line and on-line electronic media. The use of electronic technology will be increased in the acquisition of data with the aim of improving the timeliness and accuracy of published statistics and of reducing the response burden of reporting statistical offices. The ESCAP Statistical Information System will be improved in line with industry standards and as an integral part of the ESCAP overall information system. Senior-level public decision makers will be trained in effective management of information technology, including strategic policy formulation.

The work will be carried out by the Statistics Division under the guidance of the Committee on Statistics.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

9-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

9-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Statistics:

9-1-103 Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission:

9-1-201 Report on issues related to statistics (1998)

9-1-202 Report of the Committee on Statistics (1999)

(b) Committee on Statistics:

9-1-203 Report of the Working Group of Statistical Experts (1998)

9-1-204 Report on selected issues on statistical development (1998)

9-1-205 Report on issues in computerization in the public sector (1998)

9-1-206 Report on an integrated presentation of work programmes on statistics in the region (1998)

9-1-207 Report on activities of the secretariat since the tenth session of the Committee (1998)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:

9-1-301 Working Group Meeting of Statistical Experts (1999)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. *Mandated recurrent publications:*

9-2-101 Statistical Newsletter (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB)

9-2-102 Government Computerization Newsletter (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

9-2-103 Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB)

9-2-104 Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB)

9-2-105 Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB)

9-2-106 Asia-Pacific in Figures (1998, 1999) (RB)

2. *Discretionary recurrent publications:*

9-2-201 Newsletter on information technology applications in population statistics (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

3. *Mandated non-recurrent publications:*

9-2-3011 Operational handbook on environment statistics [1 output postponed from 1992-1993]

4. *Discretionary non-recurrent publications:*

9-2-401 Methodological guidelines on statistics (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

9-2-402 Technical publications on statistics on gender issues (6 in 1998) (RB/XB)

5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, videotapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes:*

9-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Statistics on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB)

6. *Exhibits:*

9-2-601 Exhibit for the Committee on Statistics (1998) (RB)

7. *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:*

9-2-701 Wall chart on general/thematic statistics (1998, 1999) (RB)

8. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):*

9-2-801 Data disseminated on electronic media (Internet, CD-ROM, diskettes etc.) (1998, 1999) (RB)

9-2-802 Operation and maintenance of the ESCAP Statistical Information System (ESIS) (1998, 1999) (RB)

9-2-803 Responses to ad hoc requests from outside users for statistical information (1998, 1999) (RB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

9-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, including the East-West Center and South Pacific Commission (1 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

9-3-002 Collaboration with non-governmental organizations, including the International Statistical Institute (1999) (RB)

9-3-003 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Statistical Commission and Working Group, regional conferences of statisticians and FAO Asia-Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

9-3-004 Collaboration with the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities (1 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB)

9-3-005 Technical and substantive support to UNFPA Country Support Teams in the region (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

9-3-006 Technical and substantive support to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. *Advisory services at the request of the governments:*

9-4-101 Advisory services on statistics on gender issues and other aspects of socio-economic statistics and indicators (5 in 1998) (RB/XB)

9-4-102 Advisory services on statistical organization and management, and application of information technology, including in the public sector (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):*

9-4-201 Regional/subregional workshops on population and social statistics, including the follow-up to global social conferences (2 in 1998) (RB/XB)

9-4-202 Regional/subregional workshops on economic statistics, including national accounts (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

9-4-203 Regional/subregional workshops on environmental statistics and accounting (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

9-4-204 Regional/subregional workshops on statistical organization and management, and application of information technology, including in the public sector (2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 10. Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities similar to those that had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 6, Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.10, Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The focus of work under this subprogramme will be to highlight trends and emerging problems, draw the attention of policy makers to priority concerns and improve the capacity of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries to integrate more closely into the dynamic regional development as well as into the international economy. Particular attention will be given to supporting their efforts at economic reform and more efficient resource mobilization and use, as well as to securing greater participation in the growing intraregional flows of investment. Priority will be given to activities in regional implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States. Human resources development, especially developing the skills of public officials in the areas of macroeconomic policy formulation, will be emphasized.

Documentation and substantive services will be provided to the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries, and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries. Non-recurrent publications will be prepared. Technical assistance in the areas outlined will be rendered with a view to translating into action the strong desire of the countries of the region to cooperate among themselves by sharing experience in practices and policies to tackle common issues.

The work will be carried out by the Development Research and Policy Analysis Division and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre under the guidance of the Special Bodies on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and on Pacific Island Developing Countries.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

10-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

10-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

10-1-103 Informal meeting on least developed countries, Pacific island developing countries, and economies in transition (1998, 1999)

(b) Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries:

10-1-104 Plenary (4 meetings) (1999)

(c) Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries:

10-1-105 Plenary (4 meetings) (1998)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission on Sustainable Development:

10-1-201 Report on follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (1998)

(b) Commission:

10-1-202 Report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries (1999)

10-1-203 Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries (1998)

(c) Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries:

10-1-204 Reports on issues related to least developed and landlocked developing countries (2 in 1999)

(d) Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries:

10-1-205 Reports on issues related to Pacific island developing countries (3 in 1998)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

10-2-301 Review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (1999) (RB/XB)

10-2-302 Enhancing cooperation in trade and investment between Pacific island countries and economies of East and South-East Asia (1998) (RB/XB)

10-2-303 Options for exchange rate policy in least developed countries (1999) (RB/XB)

4. Discretionary non-recurrent publications:

10-2-4011 Increasing efficiency in resource management in the least developed countries (1997) [1 output postponed from 1996-1997]

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

10-3-001 Collaboration with UNCTAD on follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (1998, 1999) (RB)

10-3-002 Collaboration with the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and SPREP on follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (1998, 1999) (RB)

10-3-003 Collaboration with the Forum Secretariat and the Secretariat of the South Pacific Community on matters related to Pacific island developing countries (1998, 1999) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. *Advisory services at the request of the governments:*

10-4-101 Advisory services on macroeconomic policy and related institution-building in least developed countries (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

10-4-102 Advisory services on promotion of sustainable development in small island developing States (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):*

10-4-201 Workshop on enhancing cooperation in trade and investment between Pacific island countries and economies of East and South-East Asia (1998) (RB/XB)

10-4-202 Workshop on options for exchange rate policy in least developed countries (1998) (RB/XB)

10-4-203 Seminar on the review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (1999) (RB/XB)

Annex II

STATEMENT OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

1. The resolutions adopted by the Commission at its fifty-fourth session will have no additional cost implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

2. Extrabudgetary resources will be sought for the implementation of activities required under the resolutions adopted at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission.

Annex III

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development		Fourth session Bangkok 8-10 October 1997	E/ESCAP/1092
Chairperson:	Saksit Tridech (Thailand)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Souli Nanthavong (Lao People's Democratic Republic)		
	Ajay Dua (India)		
	Jesus T. Salas (Guam)		
Rapporteur:	C.J. van Kuijen (Netherlands)		
Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development		Fifth session Manila 5-11 November 1997	E/ESCAP/1096
Chairperson:	Cielito F. Habito (Philippines)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Hranoush Hakobyan (Armenia)		
	Mozammel Hossain (Bangladesh)		
	Pehin Dato Haji Awang Hussain Mohd Yusof (Brunei Darussalam)		
	Hao Jianxiu (China)		
	B.S. Ramoowalia (India)		
	Mahmud Asgari Azad (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
	Yoshiaki Harada (Japan)		

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[a] Copies of reports that are not available through normal distribution channels at United Nations Headquarters or at Geneva may be obtained from the Regional Commissions New York Office at United Nations Headquarters.

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development (*continued*)			
Vice-Chairpersons: (*continued*)	**Soubanh Srithirath (Lao People's Democratic Republic)**		
	Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail (Malaysia)		
	Catalino Cantero (Federated States of Micronesia)		
	Maung Kyi (Myanmar)		
	Hong-Yoon Lee (Republic of Korea)		
	Abdoussattor Djabarov (Tajikistan)		
	Nguyen Thi Hang (Viet Nam)		
Rapporteur:	**G.K. Rup (Fiji)**		
Committee on Transport and Communications		**Third session Bangkok 1-4 December 1997**	**E/ESCAP/1100**
Chairperson:	**Smith Tumsaroch (Thailand)**		
Vice-Chairpersons:	**Rajendra Kumar Rai (India)**		
	Guo Xin (China)		
	Y.I. Lavrinenko (Kazakhstan)		
	I.S. Besedin (Russian Federation)		
Rapporteur:	**Jenny Barnes (Australia)**		
Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology		**Bangkok 23-24 February 1998**	**E/ESCAP/1088**
Chairperson:	**Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui (Pakistan)**		

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology (*continued*)			
***Vice-Chairpersons*:**	**Gholamreza Shafei (Islamic Republic of Iran)**		
	Alikbek Dj. Djekshenkulov (Kyrgyzstan)		
	Padma Narayan Choudhary (Nepal)		
	C.V. Gooneratne (Sri Lanka)		
	Somsak Tapsutin (Thailand)		
	S.M. Nuryev (Turkmenistan)		
	Nguyen Xuan Chuan (Viet Nam)		
***Rapporteur*:**	**Bakoa Kaltongga (Vanuatu)**		
Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries		**Fifth session Bangkok 14-15 April 1998**	**E/ESCAP/1104**
***Chairperson*:**	**Isoa Gavidi (Fiji)**		
***Vice-Chairperson*:**	**James Hyles (Australia)**		
***Rapporteur*:**	**James Hyles (Australia)**		

Annex IV

SALES PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION

A. Sales publications

Title	*United Nations publication sales number*
Asia-Pacific Development Journal	
Vol. 3, No. 2, December 1996	E.97.II.F.13
Vol. 4, No. 1, June 1997	E.98.II.F.12
Vol. 4, No. 2, December 1997	E.98.II.F.42
Asia-Pacific in Figures, 1997	E.98.II.F.33
Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1997	E.97.II.F.8
Enhancing Cooperation in Trade and Investment between Pacific Island Countries and Economies of East and South-East Asia, vol. I: *Issues*, vol. II: *Product Studies*	E.97.II.F.15
Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, 1990-1994	E/F.97.II.F.4
Government-NGO Cooperation in Population Programmes: Report of the Regional Seminar on Government-NGO Cooperation for Strengthening Population Policies and Programmes, Bangkok, 3-6 February 1997 (Government-NGO Cooperation Series No. 1)	E.97.II.F.30
Guidelines on Water and Sustainable Development: Principles and Policy Options (Water Resources Series No. 77)	E.97.II.F.21
Implications of the Single European Market for Asian and Pacific Economies: Opportunities and Challenges (Studies in Trade and Investment 26)	E.97.II.F.14
Industrial and Technological Development News for Asia and the Pacific, Nos. 23 and 24	E.95.II.F.15
Review of the Youth Situation, Policies and Programmes in Asia and the Pacific	E.97.II.F.16
Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific	
Vol. XXVII, No. 1, March 1997	E.97.II.F.6
Vol. XXVII, No. 2, June 1997	E.97.II.F.12
Vol. XXVII, No. 3, September 1997	E.97.II.F.26
Vol. XXVII, No. 4, December 1997	E.98.II.F.13
Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1996	E/F.97.II.F.1
Trade Effects of Eco-labelling: Proceedings of a Seminar held in Bangkok, 17-18 February 1997 (Studies in Trade and Investment 27)	E.97.II.F.27
Statistical Profiles	
No. 8, *Women in Pakistan - A Country Profile*	E.97.II.F.19
No. 9, *Women in Samoa - A Country Profile*	E.97.II.F.20
No. 10, *Women in China - A Country Profile*	E.97.II.F.17
No. 11, *Women in Fiji - A Country Profile*	E.97.II.F.18
No. 12, *Women in India - A Country Profile*	E.97.II.F.24
No. 13, *Women in Sri Lanka - A Country Profile*	E.97.II.F.25

B. Documents submitted to the Commission

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/L.136/Rev.1	Provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/L.137 and Corr.1 and 2	Annotated provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/1081	Report on the current economic situation in the region and policy issues	4 (a)
E/ESCAP/1082	Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: prospects for social development: summary	4 (b)
E/ESCAP/1083	Follow-up to Commission resolution 53/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission	5 (a)
E/ESCAP/1084	The role of ESCAP in the promotion of economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific: draft ESCAP position paper for review by the Economic and Social Council	5 (b)
E/ESCAP/1085	Emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme: the financial crisis in the region and its policy implications	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/1086	Emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme: trade and investment	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/1087	Emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme: financing of industrial development	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/1088	Report of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, 19-24 February 1998	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/1089	Report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/1090	Report on the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/1091	Cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/1092	Report of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development on its fourth session	6 (b)
E/ESCAP/1093	Implementation of the recommendations of the 1995 Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development and on the outcome of the 1997 special session of the General Assembly	6 (b)
E/ESCAP/1094	Emerging issues and developments related to the environment and sustainable development of natural resources: energy and fresh water	6 (b)
E/ESCAP/1095	Current policy issues on rural poverty alleviation	6 (c)
E/ESCAP/1096	Report of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development	6 (c)
E/ESCAP/1097	Progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions relating to socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas	6 (c)

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/1098 and Corr.1	Report of the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific	6 (c)
E/ESCAP/1099	Advisory services available from ESCAP under section 21 of the United Nations programme budget	8
E/ESCAP/1100	Report of the Committee on Transport and Communications on its third session	6 (d)
E/ESCAP/1101	Progress in the implementation of resolutions and major decisions of the Commission in transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development	6 (d)
E/ESCAP/1102	Emerging issues and developments in statistics	6 (e)
E/ESCAP/1103 and Corr.1	Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	6 (e)
E/ESCAP/1104	Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its fifth session	6 (f)
E/ESCAP/1105 and Corr.1	Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan, 1998-2001	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/1106 and Corr.1	Implementation of the programme of work, 1996-1997	7 (b)
E/ESCAP/1107 and Corr.1	Proposed programme changes for 1998-1999	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/1108	Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission	11
E/ESCAP/1109	Programme planning: tentative calendar of meetings, April 1998-March 1999	7 (d)
E/ESCAP/1110 and Corr.1 and 2	Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions	8
E/ESCAP/1111	Report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre	9
E/ESCAP/1112	Report of the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	9
E/ESCAP/1113	Report of the Mekong River Commission	9
E/ESCAP/1114	Report of the Typhoon Committee	9
E/ESCAP/1115	Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones	9
E/ESCAP/1116 and Add.1	Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	10

Annex V

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS AND ADVISORY SERVICES

A. List of publications

Regional economic cooperation

Asia-Pacific Development Journal, vol. 3, No. 2, December 1996 (ST/ESCAP/1737); vol. 4, No. 1, June 1997 (ST/ESCAP/1779) and No. 2, December 1997 (ST/ESCAP/1812)

BIST-EC Development Programme: Overview and Sectoral Cooperation (ST/ESCAP/1818)

Directory of Silk Importers, 2nd edition (ST/ESCAP/1743)

Directory of Trade and Investment-related Organizations of Developing Countries and Areas in Asia and the Pacific, 1997, 8th edition (ST/ESCAP/1832)

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1997 (ST/ESCAP/1727)

Emerging Issues in the Development and Utilization of Science and Technology Indicators in Developing Countries of the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1771)

Fertilizer Trade Information Monthly Bulletin, January-December 1997

Foreign Investment Guidelines: 5. *Philippines* (ST/ESCAP/1739); 6. *Indonesia* (ST/ESCAP/1775); 7. *Republic of Korea* (ST/ESCAP/1870)

Industrial and Technological Development News for Asia and the Pacific, Nos. 23 and 24 (ST/ESCAP/1776)

Institutional Framework and Policy Dialogue for the Promotion of Industrial Restructuring in the Asian and Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1758)

Mobilizing Private Sector Financial Resources for Infrastructure (ST/ESCAP/1791)

Studies in Trade and Investment: 23. *Inter-networking through Electronic Commerce to Facilitate Intraregional Trade in Asia* (ST/ESCAP/1721); 24. *Tea Marketing Systems in Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka* (ST/ESCAP/1716); 25. *Private Sector Development and Official Development Assistance in Indo-China* (ST/ESCAP/1723); 26. *Implications of the Single European Market for Asian and Pacific Economies: Opportunities and Challenges* (ST/ESCAP/1744); 27. *Trade Effects of Eco-labelling: Proceedings of a Seminar held in Bangkok, 17-18 February 1997* (ST/ESCAP/1792); 28. *Assistance to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises for Enhancing Their Capacity for Export Marketing* (ST/ESCAP/1816); 29. *Border Trade and Cross-border Transactions of Selected Asian Countries* (ST/ESCAP/1824); 30. *Market Prospects for Pulses in South Asia: International and Domestic Trade* (ST/ESCAP/1825)

TISNET Trade and Investment Information Bulletin, Nos. 332-352

Trade Documentation Software for Mongolia (ST/ESCAP/1780)

Environment and sustainable development

Agenda 21 and the Challenge for the Asian and Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1827)

Agro-chemicals News in Brief, vol. XX, Nos. 1-4; Special Issue, December 1997

Asia-Pacific Environment, vol. 2, Nos. 1-4; vol. 3, Nos. 1-4

Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing and GIS Journal, vol. 9, Nos. 1-2; vol. 10, No. 1

Atlas of Urban Geology: vol. 8, *Geological Aspects of Land-use Planning* (ST/ESCAP/1715); vol. 9, *Manual on Environment and Urban Geology of Fast-growing Cities* (ST/ESCAP/1734)

Confluence, Nos. 28-30

Demand Side Management in Integrated Resource Planning of the Power Sector (ST/ESCAP/1703)

ESCAP Energy News, vol. XIV, Nos. 1-2

Energy Conservation and Efficiency Centres in Asia (ST/ESCAP/1801)

Environmental News Briefing: A Selection from the Region's Press, vol. 10, Nos. 4-6; vol. 11, Nos. 1-3

Environmental Policies, Regulations and Management Practices in Mineral Resources Development in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1783)

Environmental Protection and Urban Planning in Small Towns: A Case Study of the Integrated Action Planning Approach in Nepal (ST/ESCAP/1800)

Guidebook on Private Sector Participation in Water Supply and Sanitation (ST/ESCAP/1732)

Guidelines and Manual on Land-use Planning and Practices in Watershed Management and Disaster Reduction (ST/ESCAP/1781)

Guidelines for the Establishment of Pricing Policies and Structures for Urban and Rural Water Supply (ST/ESCAP/1738)

Guidelines for the Establishment of Irrigation Water Pricing Policies and Structures (ST/ESCAP/1733)

Guidelines on the State of Environment Reporting in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1707)

Modelling and Simulation of Macroeconomic Systems: Use of Quantitative Models for Analysing Macroeconomic Reform Policies with Applications to China, India and Viet Nam (ST/ESCAP/1803)

Overview of Water Pricing Policies and Structures in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1646)

Pilot Scale Feasibility Study on an Earth Space Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1712)

Problems and Issues on Technology Transfer, Absorption and Generation of Phase-out Technologies for Ozone Depletion Substances in Developing Countries of the Asia-Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1773)

Proceedings of the First Meetings of the Regional Working Groups on Space Applications for Sustainable Development, 1995-1996 (ST/ESCAP/1726)

Proceedings of the Meetings of the Regional Working Groups on Space Applications for Sustainable Development, 1997 (ST/ESCAP/1790)

Proceedings of the Regional Remote Sensing Seminar on Tropical Ecosystem Management, Suva, 26-31 August 1996 (ST/ESCAP/1751)

Proceedings of the Workshop on Sustainable Rural Development Using Integrated Remote Sensing and GIS, Hyderabad, India, 16-20 September 1996 (ST/ESCAP/1789)

Public Involvement: Guidelines for Natural Resource Development Projects (ST/ESCAP/1863)

Report of the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development; Report of the Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems and Satellite-based Positioning; and Summary Record of the Meeting of the Inter-agency Subcommittee on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1689)

Report on Phase I of the Project on Promotion of the Role of Women in the Protection and Management of Water Resources: National Training Workshops on Women, Water Supply and Sanitation (ST/ESCAP/1752)

Small is Beautiful: Affordable Space Missions for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1823)

Space Technology Applications Newsletter, vol. 14, Nos. 3-4; vol. 15, Nos. 1-2

Study on Assessment of Water Resources of Member Countries and Demand by User Sectors: China - Water Resources and Their Use (ST/ESCAP/1762)

Supply, Marketing, Distribution and Use of Fertilizer in Nepal (ST/ESCAP/1798)

Training Manual on the Methodologies for Industrial Waste Audit, vol. I, *Workbook* (ST/ESCAP/1811)

Urban Land Policies for the Uninitiated (ST/ESCAP/1865)

Water Resources Journal, December 1996 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/191); March 1997 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/192); June 1997 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/193); September 1997 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/194); December 1997 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/195)

Water Resources Series, No. 76, *Water Pricing Policies and Structures and Investment Promotion in the Water Sector in Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/SER.F/76); No. 77, *Guidelines on Water and Sustainable Development: Principles and Policy Options* (ST/ESCAP/SER.F/77)

Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development

1997 Population Data Sheet

A Replicable Model for Improving District-level Coordination in Poverty Alleviation in South Asia (ST/ESCAP/1772)

Asia-Pacific Fact Sheet on Drug Demand Reduction and HIV/AIDS Prevention, Nos. 7-8

Asia-Pacific POPIN Bulletin, vol. 9, Nos. 1-3

Asia-Pacific Population Journal, vol. 12, Nos. 1-4

Asian Population Studies Series: No. 144, *Some Problems and Issues of Older Persons in Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/1735); No. 145, *Implications of Asia's Population Future for Older People in the Family* (ST/ESCAP/1736)

Catalogue of ESCAP Population Publications, 1977 (ST/ESCAP/1838)

Directory of Women's Periodicals in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1756)

Government-NGO Cooperation Series: No. 1, *Report of the Regional Seminar on Government-NGO Cooperation for Strengthening Population Policies and Programmes, Bangkok, 3-6 February 1997*

(ST/ESCAP/1755); No. 2, *Approaches to Comprehensive National Policies on Ageing: Government-NGO Cooperation* (ST/ESCAP/1805)

Human Rights and Legal Status of Women in the Asian and Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1730)

Management of Self-help Organizations of People with Disabilities (ST/ESCAP/1849)

Poverty Alleviation Initiatives, vol. 7, Nos. 1-4

Population Headliners, Nos. 256-261

Production and Distribution of Assistive Devices for People with Disabilities (ST/ESCAP/1774)

Productive Employment for Youth: Six Innovative Approaches Submitted for the 1995 ESCAP HRD Award (ST/ESCAP/1754)

Profiles of Women in Local Government (ST/ESCAP/1864)

Promoting HRD Services for the Poor: No. 1, *Showing the Way: Methodologies for Successful Rural Poverty Alleviation Projects* (ST/ESCAP/1725); No. 2, *Making an Impact: Innovative HRD Approaches to Poverty Alleviation* (ST/ESCAP/1731); No. 3, *Support or Control? Registration of NGOs Working for HRD in Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/1722)

Promotion of Small and Medium-sized Industries through Technological Capacity-building for Poverty Alleviation (ST/ESCAP/1682)

Review of the Youth Situation, Policies and Programmes in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1757)

Role of the Informal Service Sector in Urban Poverty Alleviation (ST/ESCAP/1706)

Urban Community-based Savings and Credit Systems in Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam (ST/ESCAP/1746)

WINAP Newsletter, Nos. 19-21

Transport and communications

Asia-Pacific Road Accident Statistics and Road Safety Inventory (ST/ESCAP/1815)

Decade News, No. 9

ESCAP Tourism Newsletter, Nos. 7-10

ESCAP Tourism Review: No. 18, *Tourism Promotion in Countries in an Early Stage of Tourism Development* (ST/ESCAP/1748)

Facilitation of Travel in the Greater Mekong Subregion (ST/ESCAP/1820)

Format and Software Development for the Asian Highway Database (ST/ESCAP/1841)

Guidelines for the Establishment of National and Regional Systems for Inland Transportation of Dangerous Goods (ST/ESCAP/1839)

Intraregional Container Shipping Study (ST/ESCAP/1866)

Land Transport Corridors between Central Asia and Europe (ST/ESCAP/1848)

Managing and Financing of Road Maintenance: Report of the ESCAP/World Bank Seminar, Bangkok, 17-20 September 1996 (ST/ESCAP/1795)

Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific: Report of the ESCAP/ADB Seminar-cum-Workshop, Bangkok, 2-6 September 1996 (ST/ESCAP/1796)

Road Transport and the Environment: Areas of Concern for the Asian and Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1840)

Study on Mekong/Lancang River Tourism Planning (ST/ESCAP/1821)

"Traincost" Point-to-Point Rail Traffic Costing Model: Users' Manual (ST/ESCAP/1813)

Training of Trainers Manual for Inland Water Transport (ST/ESCAP/1836)

Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No. 67 (ST/ESCAP/SER.E/67)

Transport and Communication Interventions in the Alleviation of Poverty (ST/ESCAP/1867)

Statistics

Asia-Pacific in Figures, 1997 (ST/ESCAP/1845)

Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific, 1990-1994 (ST/ESCAP/1720)

Government Computerization Newsletter, Nos. 9-10

Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific: vol. XXVII, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/1740); No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/1753); No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/1763); No. 4 (ST/ESCAP/1826)

Statistical Newsletter, Nos. 104-107

Statistical Profiles: No. 6, *Women in Vanuatu - A Country Profile* (ST/ESCAP/1650); No. 7, *Women in Solomon Islands - A Country Profile* (ST/ESCAP/1693); No. 8, *Women in Pakistan - A Country Profile* (ST/ESCAP/1694); No. 9, *Women in Samoa - A Country Profile* (ST/ESCAP/1701); No. 10, *Women in China - A Country Profile* (ST/ESCAP/1763); No. 11, *Women in Fiji - A Country Profile* (ST/ESCAP/1764); No. 12, *Women in India - A Country Profile* (ST/ESCAP/1765); No. 13, *Women in Sri Lanka - A Country Profile* (ST/ESCAP/1766)

Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1996 (ST/ESCAP/1719)

Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

Enhancing Cooperation in Trade and Investment between Pacific Island Countries and Economies of East and South-East Asia: vol. I, *Issues* (ST/ESCAP/1728); vol. II, *Product Studies* (ST/ESCAP/1729)

Improving the Access of Women to Formal Credit and Financial Institutions: Windows of Opportunity, vol. II (ST/ESCAP/1859)

Informal Financial Systems in Pacific Island Countries (ST/ESCAP/1788)

Proceedings of the Subregional Seminar on the Formulation of a Regional Policy to Replace Ageing Ships in the Pacific Island Fleets, Suva, 14-17 April 1997 (ST/ESCAP/1814)

Study on Shipping and Port Capacities in the Island Developing Countries: Report of the Study on Policy Options for Replacing Ageing Ships in the Pacific Island Fleets (ST/ESCAP/1835)

B. List of meetings

Regional economic cooperation

Expert Group Meeting on Development Issues and Policies, Bangkok, January 1997

Seminar on Assistance to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises to Enhance their Capacity for Export Marketing, Beijing, January 1997

Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, ninth meeting, Chitose City, Japan, February 1997

Asia-Pacific Consultative Forum on Coffee, second session, Bali, Indonesia, February 1997

ESCAP/UNDP Working Group Meeting on the Implementation of the Regional Investment Information and Promotion Service, second session, Bangkok, February 1997

Seminar on the Trade Effects of Eco-labelling, Bangkok, February 1997

ESCAP/ASEAN Seminar on the Enhancement of Trade and Investment Cooperation in South-East Asia: Opportunities and Challenges towards ASEAN-10 and Beyond, Jakarta, February 1997

Expert Group Meetings on the Development of Country-specific International Trade Transaction Models: first meeting, Kuala Lumpur, February 1997; second meeting. Singapore, April 1997

National Workshop on WTO Issues, Hanoi, March 1997

Special Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement, Bangkok, March 1997

ESCAP/BFI (Board of Foreign Investment) National Seminar on Attracting Foreign Direct Investment in Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, March 1997

ESCAP/BOI (Board of Investment) National Seminar on Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Bangladesh, Dhaka, April 1997

ESCAP/BOI First Regional Meeting of the Boards of Investment from Selected Countries of the Asian and Pacific Region, Dhaka, April 1997

Regional Consultative Meeting on the Promotion of Export-oriented Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Bangkok, May 1997

Consultative Meeting among Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations and ESCAP, third meeting, Tehran, May 1997

ESCAP/UNCTAD Conference on Information Technologies and Electronic Trading in the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok, May 1997

Workshop on Electronic Commerce and Article Numbering, Bangkok, May 1997

Training Course on Assistance to Economies in Transition in Export Promotion, Tashkent, June 1997

ESCAP/UNDP National Seminar on EDI and the Networking of Trade-related Research Institutions in Asia and the Pacific, Ulaanbaatar, July 1997

National Seminar on the Networking of Trade-related Research Institutions, Kathmandu, July 1997

ESCAP-Thailand Cooperation Workshop on ISO-9000, Bangkok, August 1997

Expert Group Meeting on the Legal Aspects of the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology, Bangkok, September 1997

Technical and Implementation Committee of the Investment Network Services of Asia and the Pacific, Singapore, September 1997

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Industrial Finance in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, September 1997

Seminar on the Implications of the APEC Process for Intraregional Trade and Investment Flows in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, September 1997

Regional Dialogue on Promoting Industrial and Technological Development and Complementarities: Challenges and Opportunities for Cooperation in the Light of Emerging Regional and Global Developments, Beijing, September 1997

National Workshops on the Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment, Yangon and Phnom Penh, October 1997

RNAM Regional TCDC Workshop on Food Processing Machinery, Beijing, October 1997

Working Committee Meeting on the Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair ASPAT '98 ALMATY, second session, Bangkok, October 1997

Investment Forum for Least Developed Countries, Island Developing Countries and Economies in Transition, Seoul, October 1997

National Seminar on Project Preparation and Economic Analysis, Yerevan, November 1997

ITC/ESCAP/NECTEC (National Electronics and Computer Technology Centre) Business Round Table on Facilitating International Trade in Information Technology, Bangkok, November 1997

Seminar on National Policies and Technological Capability-building in Developing Countries, New Delhi, November 1997

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology: Technical Advisory Committee, thirteenth session, and Governing Board, twelfth session, Phuket, Thailand, November 1997

Expert Group Meeting on Institution and Human Resource Capacity-building for the New Entrants into ASEAN, Bangkok, November 1997

ESCAP Network on Trade Facilitation, fifth meeting, Colombo, November 1997

Regional Consultative Group on Silk, Bangkok, November 1997

Expert Group Meeting on Development Issues and Policies, Bangkok, December 1997

RICAP Subcommittee on Industry and Technology, third meeting, Bangkok, December 1997

Environment and sustainable development

National Workshops on Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategies: Yangon and Vientiane, January 1997; Phnom Penh, February 1997

NGO Workshop for Opinion Leaders to Develop Strategies for the Promotion of Sustainable Energy Consumption, Seoul, January 1997

National Workshop on the Use of Training Modules on Women, Water Supply and Sanitation, Bangkok, January 1997

TEI (Thailand Environment Institute)/ESCAP Training Workshop on Increasing Awareness of Energy Efficiency among High School Students in Thailand, Bangkok, January 1997

Dialogue Meeting on Policies Concerning Harmonization of Various Initiatives for Promoting Regional Cooperation in Space Technology Development and Applications in the Asia-Pacific Region: first meeting, Beijing, January 1997; second meeting, Bangalore, India, March-April 1997; third meeting, Chiang Mai, Thailand, December 1997

Expert Group Meeting on Technology Transfer for the Treatment of the Waste Water of Small and Medium-scale Industries in Developing Countries of the Region, Bangkok, January 1997

Workshop on Fertilizer and the Environment, Hanoi, January 1997

Subregional Workshop on Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategies for Pacific Island Least Developed Countries, Port Vila, January 1997

Regional Workshop on Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategies for Least Developed Countries of the Asian and Pacific Region, Bangkok, February 1997

Regional Working Group on Space Sciences and Technology Applications, second meeting, Singapore, February 1997

National Seminars on Technology Transfer for the Treatment of Waste Water of Small and Medium-scale Industries: Kathmandu, February 1997; Vientiane, September 1997

National Seminar on Energy Efficiency Standards for Household Appliances (Refrigerators and Freezers), Tehran, February 1997

ESCAP/WMO Joint Session of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones and the Typhoon Committee, second session, Phuket, Thailand, February 1997

Workshop on Review of the Mineral Resource Potential of North-East Asia in Support of Sustainable Development of Coastal and Offshore Areas, Changchun, China, February 1997

Workshop on Environmentally Sound Fertilization in Pacific Countries, Apia, March 1997

Seminar on Energy Labelling for Household Appliances, Hong Kong, China, March 1997

Regional Working Group on Satellite Communication Applications, second meeting, Bali, Indonesia, March 1997

NGO Workshop on Educational Materials and Training Modules for Raising Awareness of Sustainable Energy Consumption among High School Students in the Philippines, Baguio City, Philippines, March 1997

Workshop on Guidelines and Manual on Land-use Planning and Practices in Watershed Management and Disaster Reduction, Bangkok, March 1997

Forum on Urban Geology in Asia and the Pacific, third session, Shanghai, China, March 1997

Regional Working Group on Meteorological Satellite Applications and Natural Hazards Monitoring, second meeting, Phuket, Thailand, April 1997

RICAP Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development, eighth meeting, Bangkok, April 1997

Regional Working Group on Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems and Satellite-based Positioning, Taejon, Republic of Korea, May 1997

RICAP Subcommittee on Space Applications for Sustainable Development, Seoul, May 1997

Regional Meeting of Experts on the Interrelationship between Trade and Environment, Bangkok, May 1997

Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, third session, Taejon, Republic of Korea, May 1997

Workshop on Private Sector Involvement in Water Supply and Sanitation, Macau, May 1997

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Energy Infrastructure and Energy Pricing Policies, Bangkok, May 1997

Expert Group Meeting on the Implementation of the Regional Action Programme on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000, Bangkok, May 1997

Seminar on Energy Efficiency Standards and Labelling of Household Appliances (Refrigerators and Air-conditioners), Kuala Lumpur, June 1997

RICAP Subcommittee on Water: thirty-ninth meeting, Bangkok, June 1997; fortieth meeting, Bangkok, December 1997

NGO Forum for the Promotion of Sustainable Energy Consumption, Kuala Lumpur, June 1997

Workshop on Social Impact Assessment and Public Participation for Electricity Generation Projects, Kuala Lumpur, June 1997

Regional Workshop on the Promotion of Environmental Awareness, Bangkok, June-July 1997

National Orientation Workshop on Integrated Rural Energy Planning and Environmental Assessment, Ulaanbaatar, September 1997

Regional Seminar on Satellite Communication Applications for Distance Education, Manila, September 1997

Second Expert Group Meeting on Regional Cooperation for Climate Change, Bangkok, September 1997

Expert Group Meeting on Regional Cooperation in Management of Coastal Zones and Non-living Marine Resources Development, Bangkok, September 1997

Expert Group Meeting on Adolescents: Implications of Population Trends, Environment and Development, Bangkok, September-October 1997

ESCAP/China Cooperation on In-depth Training for Remote Sensing and GIS Applications, Wuhan, China, September 1997-July 1998

ESCAP/FAO/ESA (European Space Agency) Joint Seminar on Spatial Information Technology Applications for Planners and Decision Makers, Baku, October 1997

Mid-term Review Meeting on Technical Assistance for Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, Moscow, October 1997

National Workshops on Energy and Environment Planning: Hanoi, October 1997; Beijing and Ulaanbaatar, November 1997

Regional Seminar on Efficient Water Use in Urban Areas, Singapore, October 1997

Workshop on Developing Guidelines and Training Materials for Public Involvement, Vientiane, October 1997

Training Course on the Integrated Use of Remote Sensing and GIS for Land-use Mapping, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, October-December 1997

ESCAP/Department of Space, Government of India, Cooperation for In-depth Training in Remote Sensing/GIS Applications, Dehra Dun, India, October 1997-June 1998

Workshop on Sustainable Minerals Supply in the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok, November 1997

Workshop on Mining Taxation: Global and Asia-Pacific Perspectives, Bangkok, November 1997

Sixth Regional Seminar on Earth Observation for Tropical Ecosystem Management, Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam, November 1997

Training Workshop on Meteorological Satellite Applications for Sustainable Development, Beijing, November 1997

Regional Seminar to Review the Status of Water Quality Problems in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, November 1997

FADINAP/BFA (Bangladesh Fertilizer Association)/ FAI (Fertilizer Association of India) Marketing Management Training Programme, Dhaka, November 1997

Workshop on Environmental/Social Impact Assessment and Public Participation for Electricity Generation Projects, Bangkok, November 1997

Executive Seminar on Environmental/Social Impact Assessment and Public Participation for Electricity Generation Projects, Bangkok, November 1997

Subregional Expert Group Meeting on Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Policy-making Processes for South Asia, Colombo, November 1997

Fourth Demonstration and On-site Workshop on Low Air Pollution Coal-fired Power Plant Technology, Flue Gas Desulphurization Systems, Nanjing, China, November 1997

Seminar on Energy Efficiency Promotion Strategies: Experiences of Japan, Republic of Korea and Thailand, Chennai, India, November 1997

International Training Course for Energy Managers, Chennai, India, November 1997

Training Course on Thematic Maps in Geology for Urban Planning, Bangkok, November 1997

Typhoon Committee, thirtieth session, Hong Kong, China, November-December 1997

IFA (International Fertilizer Industry Association)/ FADINAP Regional Fertilizer Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Chiang Mai, Thailand, December 1997

National Orientation Workshop on Integrated Rural Energy Planning and Environmental Assessment, Colombo, December 1997

High-level Expert Group Meeting on Policies for Integration of Space Applications with Sustainable Development, Bangkok, December 1997

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Policies in Sustainable Development of Land and Mineral Resources, Bangkok, December 1997

IFDC (International Fertilizer Development Center)/ APPI (Indonesian Fertilizer Producers Association)/ FADINAP International Fertilizer Marketing Training Programme: New Challenges, Jakarta, December 1997

Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development

Thailand-Myanmar Cross-border Commencement Meeting on Drug Demand Reduction and HIV/AIDS Prevention, Chiang Rai, Thailand, January 1997

Subregional Field Study-cum-Workshop on Post-literacy Programme Development for Women in South Asia, Dhaka, Kathmandu and Ahmedabad, January 1997

NGO Workshop on Government-NGO Cooperation for Older Persons, Bangkok, January 1997

Regional Seminar on Government-NGO Cooperation for Strengthening Population Policies and Programmes, Bangkok, February 1997

Meeting of National Researchers on Capability-building to Alleviate Rural Poverty, Bangkok, February 1997

Meeting of the Jury for the 1996 ESCAP Human Resources Development Award, Bangkok, February 1997

National Workshops on the Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region: Port Vila, February 1997; Male, March 1997; Yangon, October 1997

RICAP Subcommittee on HIV/AIDS: fourth meeting, Bangkok, February 1997; fifth meeting, Bangkok, May 1997; sixth meeting, Bangkok, August 1997; seventh meeting, Bangkok, December 1997

National Workshops on Training Needs Assessment of Social Service Personnel: Beijing, March 1997; Manila, May 1997

Final Meeting for SAARC Seven Sisters: District Development Coordination and Improved Poverty Project Design, Bangkok, March 1997

Subregional Consultation on Youth Training Needs, Bangkok, March 1997

Expert Group Meeting on Phase III of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, March 1997

Regional Meeting on Youth Training Needs, Bangkok, March 1997

Expert Group Meeting on Rural Poverty Alleviation under Changing Economic Conditions, Beijing, March 1997

Expert Group Meeting on Alleviating the Feminization of Poverty, Bangkok, April 1997

National Workshops on Strengthening Rural Credit Institutions for Poverty Alleviation: Kathmandu, May 1997; Thimphu and Jakarta, August 1997; Hanoi, November 1997

RICAP Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns, fourteenth meeting, Bangkok, May 1997

Preparatory Meetings for the Bangkok Pilot Project for the Promotion of Non-handicapping Environments for Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons, Bangkok, May and October 1997

Subregional Workshop to Promote Literacy for Women in the Pacific through Capacity-building in Local Organizations, Port Vila, June 1997

Study Directors' Meeting on Family Structure and the Elderly, Bangkok, June 1997

Regional Seminar on Government-NGO Cooperation for Older Persons, Macau, June 1997

Subregional Workshop to Promote Literacy for Women in Indo-China through Capacity-building in Local Organizations, Chiang Mai, Thailand, June 1997

RICAP Subcommittee on Urbanization, third meeting, Bangkok, June 1997

Training Course on Statistical Analysis and the Statistical Package for Social Sciences for Population and Development Planning, Bangkok, June 1997

Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, June 1997

Subregional Meeting on Promoting and Implementing the Jakarta Declaration and the Beijing Platform for Action, Lahore, Pakistan, July 1997

Regional Training Workshop on the Strengthening of Monitoring and Evaluation Systems for Measuring the Progress of Reproductive Health and Family Planning Programmes, Bangkok, July 1997

RICAP Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation, second meeting, Bangkok, July 1997

National Workshops on Government-NGO Cooperation for Poverty Alleviation: Capacity-building to Alleviate Rural Poverty under Economic Adjustments: Hanoi, Manila and Colombo, August 1997; Dhaka and Kathmandu, September 1997; Jakarta, November 1997

Myanmar-Thailand Cross-border Meeting on Drug Demand Reduction and HIV/AIDS Prevention, Yangon, August 1997

Training Workshop on Selected Population Topics and Information Technology for Information Professionals, Beijing, September 1997

RICAP Subcommittee on Population and Development, third meeting, Bangkok, September 1997

POPIN Internet Training Workshop, Part II: segment I, Beijing, September 1997; segment II, Bangkok, September 1997; segment III, Jakarta, September 1997

National Workshop on Evaluation and Implementation of National Strategies for Community-based Drug Demand Reduction and HIV/AIDS Prevention, Beijing, September 1997

Regional Study on Local Government Systems: Second Meeting of Country Reporters, Nakorn Nayok, Thailand, September 1997

Meeting of Senior Officials to Mark the Mid-point of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, Seoul, September 1997

Planning Workshop on Community-based Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, Jakarta, September-October 1997

Workshop on Strengthening the Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific through Computer Networking, Bangkok, October 1997

Expert Group Meeting in Preparation for the Second Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific, Chiang Rai, Thailand, October 1997

Regional Seminar on the Enhancement of Partnership among Government, NGOs and the Private Sector on the Promotion of Rural Industrialization for Poverty Alleviation, Goa, India, November 1997

South Asia POPIN Training Workshop on the Repackaging of Population Data and Information, Mumbai, India, November 1997

Training of Trainers for Women in Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development, Seoul, November 1997

ESCAP/CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency)/HAI (HelpAge International) Workshop on the Mekong Basin Initiative on Ageing, Bangkok, November 1997

Regional Seminar on Community-based Drug Demand Reduction and HIV/AIDS Prevention, Bangkok, November 1997

National Evaluation and Dissemination Seminar for the ESCAP/FAO Project on Poverty Alleviation through Market-generated Rural Employment, Colombo, November-December 1997

RICAP Subcommittee on the Advancement of Women, third meeting, Bangkok, December 1997

Expert Group Consultation on Prospects for Social Development in Asia and the Pacific into the Twenty-first Century, Bangkok, December 1997

Steering Committee on the High-level Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development, Bangkok, December 1997

Subregional Workshop on Eliminating Violence Against Women, Dhaka, December 1997

Transport and communications

Country-level Workshops on Financial/Economic Appraisal of Inland Water Transport Projects: Kathmandu, January 1997; New Delhi, July 1997; Kunming, China, November 1997

ESCAP/IMO Country-level Seminars on the Facilitation of Maritime Traffic, Yangon and Haiphong, Viet Nam, March 1997

Subregional Seminar on the Formulation of a Regional Policy to Replace Ageing Ships in the South Pacific Island Fleets, Suva, April 1997

Expert Group Meeting on Road Transport and Protection of the Environment, Bangkok, May 1997

Working Group on the Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Sector: fifth meeting, Chiang Rai, Thailand, May 1997; sixth meeting, Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam, October 1997

Country-level Seminar on Commercialization and Private Sector Involvement in Ports, Tehran, June 1997

Policy-level Seminar on Commercialization and Private Sector Involvement in Ports, Chittagong, Bangladesh, June 1997

Policy-level Expert Group Meeting on Land Transport Corridors between Central Asia and Europe, Bangkok, June 1997

Expert Group Meeting on Intraregional Container Shipping and Port Development, Bangkok, July 1997

Regional Seminar on Dredging Techniques of Ports and Waterways, Guangzhou, China, August 1997

Expert Group Meeting on the Commercialization of Railways: Development of Railway Marketing Practices, Bangkok, August 1997

Meeting for the Establishment of a Network of Tourism Training Institutes and Organizations in the Asian and Pacific Region, Tehran, September 1997

Steering Committee on the RAILWICS (Rail Wagon Information and Control System) project, fourth meeting, Dhaka, October 1997

Subregional Workshop on the Development of a Computerized Asian Highway Database, Bangkok, October 1997

National Seminar on Sustainable Tourism Development in Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, October 1997

Meeting of the General Body of the Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance, Bangkok, November 1997

Country-level Seminars on Railway Marketing Techniques and Practices, Tashkent and Dhaka, November 1997

RICAP Subcommittee on Infrastructure Development, second meeting, Bangkok, December 1997

Seminar on the Benefits of Accession to International Conventions on Land Transport Facilitation for Countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Dhaka, December 1997

National Seminar on the Economic Potential of the ALTID Project, Dhaka, December 1997

Statistics

Workshop on Statistics on the Informal Sector, Bangkok, May 1997

Seminar on the Use of International Comparison Programme Data, Beijing, June 1997

Working Party on the Application of New Technology to Population Data, Bangkok, September 1997

Working Group of Statistical Experts, tenth session, Bangkok, November 1997

Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

Consultative Meeting on the Identification of the Institutional Constraints of Selected ESCAP Least Developed Countries on Implementing Macroeconomic Policies and Lessons from East and South-East Asian Countries, Bangkok, April 1997

Regional Seminar on Improving the Access of Women to Formal Credit and Financial Institutions, Hanoi, July 1997

Training Programme on Project Preparation and Appraisal with an Environmental Impact Component, Dhaka, September 1997

Regional Workshop on the Formulation of Policies to Disseminate Standards and Promote Quality Management, Noumea, November 1997

Regional Seminar on Enhancing Efficiency in External Aid Utilization in the Least Developed Countries, Bangkok, December 1997

C. List of advisory services

Regional economic cooperation

Armenia: (i) on the Uruguay Round agreements and accession to WTO; and (ii) on the experience of the economic cooperation programmes of ESCAP

Azerbaijan: (i) to act as a resource person at the workshop on trade policy and trade promotion for Azerbaijan; (ii) to sensitize policy makers to recent changes in the international trade environment consequent upon the establishment of WTO; (iii) to discuss trade policy and strategies appropriate for Azerbaijan in the post-Uruguay Round period; (iv) to propose new strategies for export promotion in the post-Uruguay Round era; and (v) to examine modalities for enhancing trade efficiency with the objective of improving the trade performance of Azerbaijan

Fiji: (i) to advise the Ministry of Commerce, Industries and Trade on WTO issues, particularly problems relating to the notification requirements of WTO; (ii) to discuss with the Forum Secretariat the possibilities of reducing the financial obligations of small island States in their accession to WTO; and (iii) to brief the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade on WTO issues of relevance to Fiji

India: (i) to advise and assist the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade on the development of a curriculum and text on EDI and electronic commerce for its programmes; (ii) to advise the Ministry of Commerce on the application of international article numbering standards to facilitate trade; (iii) to advise the state government of Andhra Pradesh on the introduction of integrated electronic commerce; (iv) to examine the possibilities for enhanced trade between the members of the newly formed Economic Cooperation Group, then comprising Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand; (v) to advise on specific projects for the enhancement of regional cooperation in the trade sector among the countries of the Group; (vi) to advise the government of Andhra Pradesh on identifying business applications suitable for "network-centric" governance; (vii) to conduct a workshop for the chief executive officers of banks to create awareness on the introduction of EDI; (viii) to conduct an awareness and education workshop and round table on electronic commerce to facilitate trade for small and medium-sized enterprises; and (ix) to conduct the training for trainers course on electronic commerce at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

Indonesia: (i) to advise on preparation of the study on strategic development to enhance trade and industrial potential; and (ii) to advise the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce on the alignment of trade documents of Indonesia into the trade documentation software of ESCAP

Kazakhstan, to assist in evaluating economic reform measures and preparing concrete proposals for further macroeconomic policy reform

Malaysia: (i) on the inter-networking implementation project of the customs administration in Asia on international trade transactions modelling for the harmonization of procedures and development of regional customs declaration messages in EDI; and (ii) on the introduction of numbering, tracing, tracking and messaging at the workshop on trade facilitation for freight forwarding

Mongolia: (i) to advise on alignment of trade documents and incorporation in the trade documentation software of ESCAP; (ii) to advise the Government on the establishment of a free economic zone; and (iii) to advise on the strengthening of the Board of Foreign Investment of Mongolia

Palau, to advise the Government on WTO issues

Philippines: (i) to conduct a seminar on the General Agreement on Trade in Services and trade facilitation for the construction sectors, as requested by the Philippine Overseas Construction Board; and (ii) to advise the Philippine EDI Council and the Garment and Textile Export Board on electronic commerce and trade facilitation issues

Republic of Korea, on the introduction and promotion of information technology

Sri Lanka: (i) to assist in the development of suitable programmes for the sixth ESCAP trade facilitation meeting; and (ii) to train selected personnel from the Chamber of Commerce and the Sri Lanka Export Development Board on tools and techniques of electronic commerce to facilitate trade, including numbering, tracing, tracking, messaging and automatic identification

Turkmenistan, on developing free economic zones

Uzbekistan, to act as a resource person in the training course on assistance to economies in transition in export promotion

Viet Nam, to conduct a seminar on WTO issues

Environment and sustainable development

Armenia, on major targets for mineral exploration and mining, the environmental aspects of mineral resources development and an appropriate regulatory and institutional framework for foreign investment promotion

Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan, on mineral resources development and mineral regulations policy

Cambodia, to review the energy situation and make recommendations on plans and programmes

China: (i) to review and advise on the preparation of China's paper on rural energy and environment development as the basis for preparing an ESCAP training manual for other developing countries of the region; (ii) to advise on fertilizer information management and development; (iii) to advise on assessment of the status of remote sensing/GIS for coastal zone environment management focusing on mangroves; (iv) to advise the Nanjing Institute of Hydrology and Water Resources on a holistic approach to river basin planning for the Upper Mekong River; and (v) to advise the Nanjing Environmental Protection Research Institute, Ministry of Electrical Power, on the technical preparatory work for the organization of a demonstration and on-site workshop on flue gas desulphurization technology

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to advise the Ministry of Lands and Environmental Protection on environmental management and research in the introduction of clean-coal technologies

Fiji and Solomon Islands, to advise on a promotional policy for the mineral sector

India: (i) to assist Osmania University in developing a research and teaching programme at the Energy Technology Centre; (ii) to advise the Ministry of Surface Transport on environmental management of the transport sector, including technological and policy options for improving air pollution control; and (iii) to advise the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Hyderabad, on the promotion of economic instruments for pollution control

Indonesia, on international environmental standards, particularly ISO 14000

Islamic Republic of Iran: (i) to conduct a workshop to review and disseminate the results of the energy audit carried out at the Behran oil refinery; (ii) to advise the Iran Centre for Energy Studies and the Ministry of Energy on the initiation of research on the environmental aspects of energy, and on the ongoing programme of the Centre; (iii) to advise the Ministry of Construction on preparing project documents for a study on soil erosion; and (iv) to review the draft energy policy statement

Kazakhstan, on urban geology and geological information needs for incorporation in planning

Lao People's Democratic Republic, to advise the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on water resources planning and management

Macau, to advise the Government on the implementation of EDI

Mongolia: (i) to advise on electric power statistics; (ii) to advise the Government on coordinating various aspects of mineral development; (iii) to advise the Ministry for Protection of Nature and Environment on drafting a new law on the environmental impact assessment of projects; (iv) to advise the Ministry on the Polluter Pays Principle; and (v) to assist the Government in the development of a mineral policy and geological mapping and mineral licensing units

Myanmar: (i) to advise on comprehensive development planning in the arid zone of central Myanmar using an integrated remote sensing/GIS approach; (ii) to advise the National Commission for Environmental Affairs on reviewing drafts of the Myanmar Agenda 21; and (iii) to advise the Government on the Myanmar Agenda 21 and finalize it for presentation at the special session of the United Nations General Assembly in June 1997

Nepal: (i) to advise the Ministry of Water Resources on the application of guidelines on water and sustainable development to rehabilitate rivers and to assist in the coordinated development of water and power; and (ii) to advise the Ministry of Water Resources on water resources and hydropower development

Pakistan, to advise the Water and Power Development Authority on water resources policy and water rights

Philippines: (i) to advise on the application of guidelines on water and sustainable development in the preparation of national master water plans; (ii) to advise on the assessment of the status of remote sensing/GIS for coastal zone environment management focusing on mangroves; (iii) to assist the Philippine Department of Energy with the planning of analytical studies to be undertaken for updating the Philippine 30-year energy plan; (iv) to advise the Environmental Management Bureau on reviewing air quality standards and suggest modifications; (v) to advise the national Water Resources Board on the formulation of the National Master Water Plan; (vi) to advise the Department of Energy, Cebu City, on mini-hydropower; and (vii) to review an update of the Philippine energy plan, 1997-2035

Thailand: (i) to advise on assessment of the status of remote sensing/GIS for coastal zone environment management focusing on mangroves; and (ii) to lecture on water management at the Agricultural Engineering Training Centre, Ministry of Education

Viet Nam: (i) to advise on assessment of the status of remote sensing/GIS for coastal zone environment management focusing on mangroves; (ii) to advise on investment promotion issues in the mining industry and other related issues following the implementation of the Mineral Law; and (iii) to conduct a technical evaluation of the UNDP-funded project on environmental protection in open-pit mining in Quang Ninh Province

Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development

Armenia, to assist the Ministry of Social Security, Employment, Migration and Refugee Issues in reviewing the progress of its national plans for social development within the framework of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development, held at Manila in 1997

Bangladesh: (i) to advise the Committee of Agents and Beneficiaries of Poverty Alleviation Programmes at the District Level, of Nilphaniari; and (ii) to discuss problems faced by constituent organizations that required solution at the national level

Bhutan, to conduct the second and third supervisory missions on the ESCAP/FAO project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment

China, to assist the Ministry of Personnel in the organization of a national training needs assessment workshop for social development personnel

Cook Islands, to review the regionalization process, including preparatory rural appraisal methodologies, particularly for Aitutaki

Democratic People's Republic of Korea: (i) to evaluate the project on population and development; (ii) to advise senior government officials on population issues related to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; and (iii) to lecture at the workshop on data analysis and application of census results to development planning

Fiji: (i) to advise the Fiji Disabled People's Association and other NGOs on the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002; (ii) to assist in the national workshop on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region; (iii) to review Fiji's draft sustainable development bill; (iv) to assist the Ministry of Regional Development and Multi-ethnic Affairs with its corporate planning; (v) to support the UNFPA regional planning workshop; (vi) to review the report to Fiji's Great Council of Chiefs on ways to develop the leadership capabilities of chiefs; (vii) to review social development issues and programmes as discussed with the Central Planning Office, Ministry of Regional Development and Multi-ethnic Affairs and Ministry of Youth, Employment Opportunities and Sports; (viii) to advise the Fiji School of Medicine on library development; (ix) to review and further develop the planning systems of the Ministry of Youth, Employment Opportunities and Sports and their links to national planning; (x) to advise on the preparation of a national paper for the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development; (xi) to support implementation by the Central Planning Office of new national decision-making machinery; and (xii) to advise on the organization of a corporate planning workshop for the Ministry of Regional Development and Multi-ethnic Affairs and to consult on preparations for the national workshop on corporate planning for Ministry staff

India: (i) to assist the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment and the Ministry of Welfare in the preparation and organization of an India-China seminar on multisectoral collaborative action for people with disabilities; and (ii) to advise the Committee of Agents and Beneficiaries of Poverty Alleviation Programmes at the District Level

Indonesia: (i) on literacy and employment of people with disabilities; and (ii) on population issues related to the implementation of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Cairo Programme of Action

Islamic Republic of Iran, on the development of the first national Human Development Report

Japan: (i) to advise the Itoga Kazuo Memorial Foundation on the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002; and (ii) to assist the Japanese Society for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons in the implementation of the Decade

Kyrgyzstan, to advise the Department for Vocational Training of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection on skills development and training for women

Lao People's Democratic Republic: (i) to conduct the first supervisory mission on the ESCAP/FAO project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment; and (ii) to assist the provincial government of Savannakhet by conducting a workshop on the second cross-Mekong bridge and East-West Corridor road and how to maximize its social and economic benefits, and to meet with the key provincial and national agencies responsible for managing the social and economic impacts likely to arise from the bridge and road construction

Malaysia, to assist in the organization of an NGO forum in preparation for the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development

Maldives, to advise on and conduct a national workshop on implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region

Marshall Islands, to discuss implementation of the draft youth policy with officials of the Ministry of Interior and Social Welfare and its Youth Services Bureau

Micronesia (Federated States of), to facilitate the organization of a workshop to consolidate and compile youth plans

Mongolia: (i) to conduct the first and second supervisory missions on the ESCAP/FAO project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment; and (ii) to assist the Mongolian Women's Federation and Ministry of Health and Social Protection in conducting a training workshop on poverty alleviation strategies and methodologies

Myanmar: (i) to advise the Departments of Social Welfare, Health, Education, Police and Justice on the development of a national action plan on community-based prevention of juvenile delinquency; (ii) to assess the country's needs and discuss with government officials population activities related to the implementation of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Cairo Programme of Action; (iii) to assist the National Commission for Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in preparing the draft national document on the Myanmar Agenda 21 regarding population dynamics, consumption patterns and poverty alleviation; (iv) to assist the National Commission for Environmental Affairs in finalizing the draft Myanmar Agenda 21; and (v) to provide technical assistance in conducting a national workshop on implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region

Nepal: (i) to conduct the second supervisory mission on the ESCAP/FAO project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment; and (ii) to advise the National Planning Commission on poverty alleviation monitoring and coordination

Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, to advise government officials on population issues related to the implementation of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Cairo Programme of Action

Philippines: (i) to conduct the second supervisory mission on the ESCAP/FAO project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment; and (ii) to assist the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons

Samoa: (i) to follow up on the development of planning systems within the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture and to support the evaluation of the youth health education project; (ii) to review and further develop the Ministry's planning systems and links to national planning; and (iii) to assist in the preparation of a project proposal for youth skills training

Solomon Islands, to investigate the potential for strengthening community links with national planning and decision-making machinery

Sri Lanka: (i) to conduct the second supervisory mission on the ESCAP/FAO project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment; and (ii) to advise the Committee of Agents and Beneficiaries of Poverty Alleviation Programmes at the District Level

Thailand: (i) to conduct the second supervisory mission on the ESCAP/FAO project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment; and (ii) to assist with the training of senior staff of the Self-help Land Settlement Scheme, Songkhla and Yala provinces

Vanuatu: (i) to provide technical assistance in the drafting of the constitutions and by-laws of new organizations; (ii) to provide support for strategic planning for the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific; (iii) to assist in the national population planning workshop; and (iv) to advise and consult with the Cabinet on the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region

Viet Nam: (i) to advise the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on a migration survey in connection with the project on migration patterns and policies; and (ii) to lecture at a training course on migration patterns and policy organized by the Ministry

Transport and communications

Bangladesh: (i) to advise the port of Chittagong on private sector participation; and (ii) to advise on the improvement of port operations at Mongla port

Cook Islands, to assist in the port reconstruction and shore protection works programme on Mahihiki Island following destruction by cyclone

Fiji: (i) to advise the Forum Secretariat and the Pacific Community on the formulation of the work programme, 1998/99, and long-term assistance; (ii) to advise local shipowners of the domestic fleet on the establishment of networking on the formulation of a regional policy to replace ageing ships; (iii) to carry out a feasibility study on developing Suva port as a centre for foreign fishing vessels; and (iv) to act as a resource person at the subregional seminar on the formulation of a regional policy to replace ageing ships in the South Pacific island fleet

Micronesia (Federated States of), to review major port development proposals for the fishing industry (jointly with the Forum Fisheries Agency)

Philippines, on tariff formulation and efficiency measures for port operations

Samoa, on improvement of port management and operations and appropriate tariff structure and rates

Tonga: (i) to survey the harbour areas and identify safe anchorage for vessels during the cyclone season and to advise on alternatives for the prevention of damage to vessels during the cyclone season; and (ii) to advise local shipowners of the domestic fleet on the establishment of networking on the formulation of a regional policy to replace ageing ships

Turkmenistan, on traffic police and road safety management

Vanuatu: (i) to assist with the land-use planning project regarding computer mapping of all port and landing facilities, anchorages and cyclone shelters; (ii) to advise on multimodal transport possibilities; and (iii) to advise the Government on required rehabilitation and improvement works at the Malekula fishing and ship-repair facility in Santo

Statistics

Bangladesh: (i) on the possibilities of developing a national data plan; and (ii) to review and assess existing data collection activities for generating reproductive health indicators

Cambodia, on analysis of the demographic survey and on the design of a cost-of-living survey

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on data analysis and application of census results to development planning

Fiji, to assist in follow-up work on the 1996 census and the post-enumeration survey design

Indonesia: (i) to advise the Central Bureau of Statistics on implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts; (ii) to assist in assessing the application of mapping software; and (iii) to discuss the project proposal on a recording and reporting model system of a women-friendly movement programme

Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, to advise government officials on population issues related to the implementation of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Cairo Programme of Action

Philippines: (i) to conduct the second supervisory mission on the ESCAP/FAO project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment; and (ii) to assist the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons

Samoa: (i) to follow up on the development of planning systems within the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture and to support the evaluation of the youth health education project; (ii) to review and further develop the Ministry's planning systems and links to national planning; and (iii) to assist in the preparation of a project proposal for youth skills training

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Samoa, on improvement of port management and operations and appropriate tariff structure and rates

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Turkmenistan, on traffic police and road safety management

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Statistics

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Cambodia, on analysis of the demographic survey and on the design of a cost-of-living survey

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on data analysis and application of census results to development planning

Fiji, to assist in follow-up work on the 1996 census and the post-enumeration survey design

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Annex VI

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session, amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 46(I) of 11 December 1946, in which the General Assembly "recommends that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of ... an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East",

Having noted the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas,

Establishes an Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the relevant United Nations bodies;

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The territories of Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 shall include Afghanistan, American Samoa, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

4. The associate members shall include American Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, China, Macau, New Caledonia, Niue and Northern Mariana Islands.

5. Any territory, part or group of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

6. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee, or other subordinate body, which may be set up by the Commission and shall be eligible to vote and hold office in such body.

8. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals of activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

10. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organization to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization, following the practice of the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and cooperation with other regional commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

14. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairperson.

15. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at Bangkok, Thailand.

19. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Annex VII

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As drawn up at the first session, confirmed and adopted at the second session, and amended at subsequent sessions of the Commission.

Chapter I

SESSIONS

Rule 1

The following principles shall apply as regards date and place for the sessions of the Commission:

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session, subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and, in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission;

(b) In special cases the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session;

(c) Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission may recommend holding a particular session elsewhere.

Rule 2

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with three copies of the provisional agenda and of the basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda.. Distribution shall be similar to that under rule 49.

Rule 3

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that Member.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 4

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;

(b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Items proposed by any member or associate member of the Commission;

(d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;

(e) Items proposed by non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, subject to the provisions of rule 6;

(f) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

Rule 6

Non-governmental organizations in general consultative status may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments he may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not less than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Rule 7

The first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

Chapter III

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Rule 12

The Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

Chapter IV

OFFICERS

Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman shall preside.

Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the First Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the First Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Second Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 16

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 17

The Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

Chapter V

SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its subcommissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 19

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 20

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its subcommissions, and any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Rule 23

Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the

Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved.

Chapter VI

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 24

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 25

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a point of order. In this case, the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision, and it shall stand unless overruled.

Rule 27

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 28

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 29

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 30

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 31

Draft resolutions, and substantial amendments or motions, shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the representatives at least twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 32

Upon the request of any member, any motion and amendment thereto made by any speaker shall be given to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon and also immediately before a vote is taken on such motion or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any motion or amendment be circulated to the members present before a vote is taken.

This rule shall not apply to formal motions such as one for closure or adjournment.

Rule 33

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 34

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and, if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 35

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal; then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed; and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 36

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

Chapter VII

VOTING

Rule 37

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 38

Except for the provision of rule *6(b)*, decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 39

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 40

The Commission shall normally vote by a show of hands. If any representative requests a roll-call, a roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 41

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 42

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 43

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

Chapter VIII

LANGUAGES

Rule 44

Chinese, English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 45

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

Chapter IX

RECORDS

Rule 46

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat, not later than seventy-two hours after the circulation of any summary record, of any changes they wish to have made. Any disagreement concerning such changes shall be referred to the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

Rule 47

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution to non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster, and on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

Rule 48

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned, and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

Rule 49

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to the non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster.

Chapter X

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 50

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

Chapter XI

CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Rule 51

1. Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda for a session contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters which are of direct concern to one or

more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agency or agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving coordinated use of the resources of the respective agencies.

2. Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives at the meeting of the other agency or agencies concerned, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

3. Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

Chapter XII

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 52

Non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence.

Rule 53

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in general and special consultative status on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members and associate members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete - e.g. those dealing with matters already disposed of, and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members and associate members of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 54

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation;

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in general consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or of one of its subsidiary bodies;

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in special consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or other subsidiary bodies;

(f) The Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman or the Commission itself may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)* and *(e)* above shall apply to such statements;

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages and, upon the request of a member or associate member of the Commission, in any of the official languages.

Rule 55

(a) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in general or special consultative status either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the request of the organization;

(b) On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 56

Subject to rule 23 the Commission may recommend that a non-governmental organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 54*(d)* and *(e)* shall not apply in this case.

Chapter XIII

SUBCOMMISSIONS, OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Rule 57

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

Rule 58

The Commission may establish such committees and subcommittees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 59

Subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees, subcommittees and working parties shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

Chapter XIV

REPORTS

Rule 60

The Commission shall, once a year, submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies.

Chapter XV

AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 61

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission, provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

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